NEWS, PAGE 2



A LIBIDO IS **CURBED IN THE** WHITE HOUSE The Clintons' dog prepares for the snip NEWS, PAGE 14



THE KEY TO YOUR CHILDREN'S HOMEWORK Part One of a new series EDUCATION+ WITH PAGES OF JOBS

ROBIN COOK'S LATEST OBJECTS OF DESIRE The best of British design goes on show



Newspaper of the Year for photographs

New owners pledge expansion for 'Independent'

Thursday 12 March 1998 45p (IR50p)



By Rob Brown Media Editor

THE Independent and Indeyesterday by Ireland's Indepledged immediately to invest heavily in Britain's youngest sights on a sophisticated, upmarket readership.

ican-style working partnership with Andrew Marr, who has returned as editor-in-chief with pendent on Sunday were bought special responsibility for the comment pages, after leaving pendent Newspapers, which the editor's chair last month.

In America, hroadsheet newspapers are traditionally broadsheets and to set their run in this way. Ben Bradlee, the legendary former Washington Post journalist who will be join-Rosie Boycott, editor of the ing the board of Independent

cept can be transplanted to Independent's founder and Tony Britain. "The principle is well established in the US and I be- Newspapers lieve it makes for very healthy journalism," he said, noting that he was never actually "editor" of the Washington Post. His

title was "executive editor". Mr Bradlee will be joined on the board by Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC,

O'Reilly, head of Independent

Dr O'Reilly is the largest individual shareholder in the Irish group and until recently he was chief executive of the food. giant Heinz. His company bought the 46 per cent stake in the Independent titles held by Mirror Group and the holdings

for a very long time." Announcing the deal in the City yesterday, Brendan Hop-The commitment to expan-

sion was warmly welcomed by

Ms Boycott. She said: "For the

first time in a long time we have

wait for it to begin." Mr Marr

echoed her sentiments: "I never

believed in my wildest dreams

that this was going to happen.

I have hoped and prayed for this

Truants get a day off school - with the Prime Minister's permission

papers UK, said: "This is a historic day... We've been waiting a really secure future. I cannot a long time for this."

The Dublin-based international media group first acquired a 25 per cent shareholding in the Independent titles in 1994, later upping its stake to 46 per cent. This put it on an equal footing with the Mirror Group, which moved the titles

in London's Docklands. The papers will remain there.

The Independent is not dumbing down," Mr Hopkins pledged. "We'll be going into the market to recruit the cream of UK journalists to write for the only true independent UK title. We'll show how we can get hold of some of the best journalists in town."

kins, who becomes managing di-from City Road to its corporate Independent dream, page 3

Living with a smoker can kill you

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Pressure on the Government to introduce curbs on smoking in public places increased last night after a major British re-

As the tobacco industry continued to claim there was no risk to passive smokers, the Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health said the "enormous damage" smoking caused

"should no longer be accepted". Figures from the SCOTH report, the first major report of its kind in Britain for ten years. found that living with a smok- in designated areas, and wherer raises the risk of developing lung cancer by a quarter and heart disease by about the same. ♠ ¹ There was no other "reasonable interpretation" of the data the

For children, the effects were even worse with the study concluding one in five cot deaths was due to the mother smoking and children whose parents both smoked increased their chance of developing asthma by 50 to 60 per cent.

"There is an importance and urgency with the smoking problem that needs to be recognised by both the Government and the public," said the report. "The enormous damage to

health and life arising from the report was an important one take effective action to limit this preventable epidemic."

The report, which coincided with No Smoking Day, found and accounted for a third of all cancer deaths.

Smoking should be banned in public service buildings and on public transport, other than

Further reports, page 5

ever possible in the workplace, the committee said It also called on the Government to ban all advertising and sponsorship, to increase the real price of tobacco products every hahits of young people, partieularly as smoking amongst young adults went up for the

first time in 1996. The committee also said that the Government should

smoking should no longer be ac- and that the Government accepted; the Government should cepted the recommendations and would be looking at them in the light of the White Paper, due out later this year.

It is understood that legisport confirmed passive smoking that smoking was the single lation to curb smoking in pubcauses lung cancer and heart most important avoidable cause lic places or workplaces is kely excent it there was real necessity to do so as the Government believes that a great deal more can be achieved through the existing voluntary

> The report comes a few days after the tobacco group BAT industries claimed that a World Health Organisation report had found no extra lung cancer risk for those who regularly breathed in other people's cigarette smoke. But the WHO announced that its 10-year study did show a link between lung cancer and passive smoking and accused the tobacco invear and to monitor smoking dustry of staging a "wholly misleading" publicity stunt.

> Yesterday the industry refused to concede any ground. John Carlisle of the Tobacco Manufacturers Association said: "We are urging the govconsider consider putting nico-erament not to be panicked into tine replacement therapy (such any form of legislation against as patches, gum, inhalors) on smoking in public places because of the results of this re-The Chief Medical Officer evidence linking passive smok-

prescription for those trying to Sir Kenneth Calman said that ing to lung cancer."

Total tops £35,000

THE INDEPENDENT'S Load Appeal has so far raised £35,000 and the donations are still flooding in, writes Amanda Keilv.

We are now passing on the first instalment of money to CARE International UK and Medical Ald for Iragi Children who are overseeing our delivery of cancer-treating medicines to the sick children

Both charities are experi enced in overcoming the buresucratic hurdles involved in importing supplies to Iraq and will ensure the drugs reach the children as quickly as possible.

CARE, a global relief and development organisation working in 63 countries, has run humanitarian projects in Iraq for the past seven years. Medical Aid for Iraqi Children was set up in 1984 with the specific purpose of alleviating the suffering of Iraqi children caused by the United Nations Sanctions.

Please send cheques, made out to The Independent Iraq Appeal, to PO Box No 6870. 1 Canada Square, London

NSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

beat the Budget fund to control the timing of the capital gains they receive. If their

SOME of Britain's richest people have been rushing since the election last May to take advantage of a tax loophole the Chancellor could close in next week's Budget.

By Diane Coyle

Economics Editor

Privately, tax advisers say participation by the wealthy in a scheme known as "private" authorised unit trusts has been growing tremendously. Many investment managers, including some of the higgest, manage these perfectly legal schemes on behalf of private clients.

One tax expert admitted last night: "It is a gross ahuse." The schemes are not marketed publicly by the financial planning industry, but created especially for individuals with very large sums to invest in shares or property.

There are no comprehensive figures on the extent of these investment plans, which are legally identical to the unit trusts millions of ordinary savers buy shares in However, as much as £8bn could have been invested in them in order to allow rich texpayers to reduce the amount of

The amount of tax revenue lost is likely to be small simply because so few schemes are involved. Only 130,000 people pay

any capital gains tax, and only a tiny minority of those will have opened the "private" unit trusts. But these individuals will have been able to save millions of pounds in tax by using the

investment gains are realised when they have other losses to offset against them, or if they are spending a full year abroad, their

Children who skip school joined panels yesterday to advise the Government on how to tacke the problem. Reports, page 10 Photograph: Rui Xavier

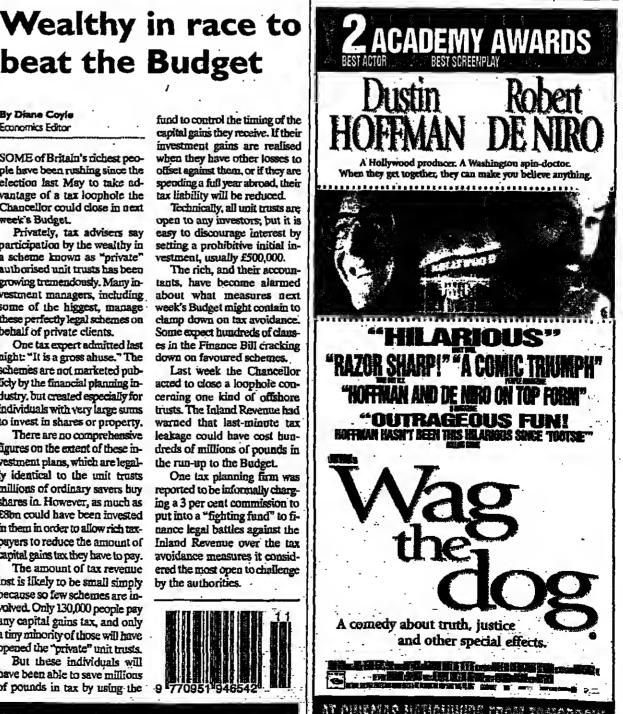
tax liability will be reduced. Technically, all unit trusts are open to any investors; but it is easy to discourage interest by setting a prohibitive initial investment, usually £500,000.

The rich, and their accountants, have become alarmed about what measures next week's Budget might contain to clamp down on tax avoidance. Some expect hundreds of clauses in the Finance Bill cracking down on favoured schemes.

Last week the Chancellor acted to close a loophole conceraing one kind of offshore trusts. The Inland Revenue had warned that last-minute tax leakage could have cost hundreds of millions of pounds in the run-up to the Budget.

One tax planning from was reported to be informally charging a 3 per cent commission to put into a "fighting fund" to finance legal battles against the Inland Revenue over the tax capital gains tax they have to pay. avoidance measures it considered the most open to challenge by the authorities.





Discovered at last: the chemical secrets of sexual attraction

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Odourless chemicals produced by the human body which are said to act as sexual attractants and influence mood do exist, researchers have found. The first scientific evidence

pheromones has come from a study of women whose menstrual cycles were manipulated using secretions from under Psychologists Kathleen Stark

nd Martha McClintock, of the Jniversity of Chicago, Illinois, isked nine women to wear coton-wool pads under their arms or eight hours.

They were treated with alohol, frozen and then the seretions from them applied to ne upper lips of 20 other umen who were asked not to peated the process daily through two complete men-

The researchers found that when the secretions were taken from the nine donors in the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle, two to four days before ovulation, they shortened the for the existence of human menstrual cycle in the recipient

But when the secretions were taken from the donor women in the ovulatory phase, the day of ovulation and the two subsequent days, they lengthened the menstrual cycle in the recipient women.

The finding, reported in Nature, helps explain why women living together can develop synchronised menstrual cycles. The two types of pheromone appear to regulate follicular development (the maturation of the folliele that produces the egg) ash their faces for at least six and ovulation but not other airs. The recipient women restages of the menstrual cycle.

The study shows humans have the potential to communicate pheromonally and raises the question whether there are other human pheromones that might influence other aspects of behaviour.

None of the recipient women could detect the nheromones, reporting only a smell of alcohol, used to extract them from the cotton-wool nads. In all, two-thirds responded by lengthening the menstrual cycle by an average 1.7 days or shortening it by an average 1.4 days.

The researchers say that the pheromones may have other effects on women depending on their social conditions and the point in their reproductive life. Research in animals has shown that they influence mating preference, dominance relationships, and recognition of individual members of their

Auditors check Prescott housing deal

A TEAM of Government auditors delved into the cootroversial housing deal involving the hide." son of John Prescott yesterday as police arrested a man in connection with an alleged "vendetta" against the Deputy Prime Minis-

Three senior audit officials from the De-But after his grilling, Stephen Brindley, chief fice.

THE two newest Brits in Paris showed

their collections yesterday: 26-year-old

Stella McCartney for Chice and 28-

year-old Alexander McQueeo for

Givenchy. Both presented collections

that were true to the style as the hous-

es they are employed by, writes Tam-

For Chloe, McCartney showed

pretty, femioine, floral appliqued

dresses, carnisole tops and tailored suits

while McQueen presented a strong collection doing what he does best:

McQueen's third ready-to-wear

collection for Givenchy was his best yet

- and the best the house has produced

seasons more to truly find his feet, hut

already he is showing clothes far more

Givenchy customer than his prede-

McQueen's womeo are hard, ag-

like you usually see on the catwalks of

French designer Thierry Mugler who

has so influenced McQueen. If you

cessor, John Galliano, ever did.

for a long time. It will take him a few might well be.

elsewhere. McQueen has little time for her limitations.

relevant to both the house and to the eoties rock chick. And she has given

gressive and tough; power womeo slip top that emphasises the cleavage.

want pretty feminine clothing, look personality. But as a designer, she has

strong, structured tailoring.

sin Blanchard.

Classics from the newest

Brits on Paris catwalk

executive of the North Hull Housing Actioo board and we have absolutely nothing to

Hours earlier, detectives in Hull questioned and released oo police bail one of two media after they were identified as two selfstyled researchers who had been offering mapartment of the Environment, Transport terial about Mr Prescott senior to the media. and the Regions questioned the head of a The arrested man, Ian Newton, 42, a comhousing trust that sold 25 homes to Wyke Deputer expert, of east Hull, was questioned in year-old son, Jonathan, for just £5,000 each. theft of some papers from a city-ceotre of-

flighty fashion. His Blade Runner-style

replicants wore killer red leather

shirts, second-skin dresses, and severely

shouldered coats. A brocade tailored

dress was followed by the signature Mo-Queen all-in-one pant suit which came

Sam dresses so heavily embroidered

they were almost dripping, and rub-

berised dresses scattered with blue glit-

There were also skintight Cheong

When it reaches the shops oext au-

If big structured shoulders and

McCartney understands the Chloe

tumn, this collection will sell and sell.

hard tailoring are not your thing, Stel-

la McCartney's collection for Chloe

lookIt is soft, floaty and a touch of sev-

the label a whole oew lease of life with

girls of her 20 something geocratioo

who want to go out and party in a satin

fect woman to revive the flagging la-

bel and instill it with her own

As a publicity magnet, she is the per-

in hurgundy chalk stripe.

· Yesterday's events raised the temperature Trust, said: "This deal was completely above in an acrimonious row between disaffected elements of the local Labour Party and Mr Prescott senior. Some Prescott supporters believe the "researchers" were hired to dig dirt on him before the men turned freelance. One men who had "sought sanctuary" from the of those openly accused of hiring them, suspended councillor Tony Fee, said: "That's rubbish. As sooo as you ask any questions in this

town, someone accuses you of something." It was Mr Fee who called for an inquiry two weeks ago into the sale of 25 houses on velopments which employs Mr Prescott's 34- connection with an alleged burglary and the a run-down Hull estate to Wyke Developmeots. The houses are to be transferred to Wyke Property Services Ltd, of which Mr

Prescott junior has a 20 per cent stake.

The homes were sold by the North Hull Housing Action Trust whose vice chairman is John Black, a close friend of the Prescott family, who is being investigated by police over

However, the deal was approved by regiocal officials of the DoETR in Leeds after a tendering process which saw Wyke emerge as highest bidders who were prepared

to re-let, the houses at the lowest rents. "One bid was for £1 per house and two housing associations actually asked us for

er wanted £11,000," said Mr Brindley, the housing trust chief executive.

Mr Brindley said each house needed approximately £10,000 in internal renovations. £42,000 in expenses claimed while he was Lord Local estimates put the value of the homes after renovatioo at about £25,000. However, Mr Brindley said that under the deal, Wyke have to rent the properties at about £45-50 per week for at least 10 years before they can be sold on.

The audit team left Hull last night with copies of dozens of documents and records of interviews. They hope to report to Mr money to take the properties off our hands Prescott senior-by tomorrow.

TOMORROW

32 pages of film and music

Denzei Washington: fallen on good times

Sex Pistols: why they wrote 'God Save The Queen'

Danny de Vito: Hollywood's little big man

Paul Young: He's back and he's got (at least) one fan

CONTENTS

1	
News	. 2-12
Foreign	. 3-17
Design	19.
Features	18, 20
Obituaries	, 21
Leader & letters	22
Comment	23
Business	
Shares	
Unit trusts	
Sport	
Crossword	
Concise Crossword The I	
TV & radio The F	Man 17 1

World football chief backs England's bid for 2006

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

FOOTBALL'S senior statesman gave his backing to England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup last night after a meeting with Tony Blair in Downing Street.

half-hour session that the new Wembley Cup 2006 will indeed take place in England," stadium would be vital to the hid.

"We are very aware that England is the

ated, it was here that the game grew up, it - inflocotial. was here that the laws of the game were created," he said.

Speaking through an interpreter, he added that the FIFA executive would make its de-Joan Havelange, president of FIFA, the cision in 2000. "It is my personal wish that decision, Dr Havelange's support was very game's ruling body, told reporters after the oo that day it will be decided that the World

he said. Dr Havelange, who is 82, will retire from

cradle of the game, the motherland of his post in June this year but his support for entirely in French, so I doo't really know what riously would now change their positions. football. It was here that the game was cre- England's hid is still expected to be highly they decided," he joked. Mr Banks added fans

> at the meeting along with Graham Kelly, the es abroad would influence the decision. Jaunch a joint bid with England Ministers say chief executive of the Football Association. "They are ambassadors for the country and they felt the offer was an admission that Gerwelcome, Mr Banks said.

eodorsement that we have received. The discussions were very cordial and were conducted

should remember their behaviour during this ... World Cup in 2006 comes from South Africa The sports minister, Tony Banks, was also year's World Cup in France and other match and from Germany, which made an offer to

Although it was up to FIFA to make its they have got to realise they play a crucial part many was unlikely to win the bid. in persuading the world that English football is of the finest quality and that its support- 40th anniversary of the 1966 World Cup in

> The sports minister added that he hoped strong case because it held the tournament people who had not taken England's hid se-

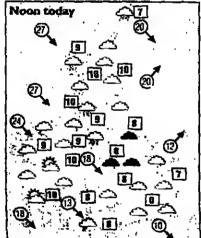
So far the main competition to hold the

Dr Havelange said that 2006 would be the "We must be very, very encouraged by the ers are amongst the best in the world," he said. England, but in 2010 Brazil would have a



Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

FORECAST



Today's forecast

A thaw will start in Scotland but this will be preceded by showers of snow over the hills. The snow will soon turn to rain and drizzle, which will become confined to the north and west by the afternoon with the part brightening up. Wales and northern parts of England will have rain but in the afternoon this rain will mainly die out with some surmy breaks developing in north-eastern parts. Meanwhile, central and southern England will start bright and cold with spells of rain and drizzle late in the day. Outlook for the next few days

The milder weather will stay with us up to and throughout the coming w ressure to the west of the UK will move eastwards to bring mainly settled weather to most parts of the country. These may be a little light rain or drizzle in the sunny breaks -- although there will generally be a lot of cloud around. Rain will, however, edge into Scotland later on Sunday.

British Isles weather most most available togerest open focal to C cloud, Cities Flat Fg lag. Ht have, Minux Ruam, Sistemy, Sistem, Studentes Susnow, To therefor Air quality Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

World weather and



Good looks: Paul and Linda McCartney cheer their daughter Stella at the end of her Chloe collection

Various degrees of hot air



The next time you look upwards into the sky, spare a thought for what is really go-

WISE

The lowest level of the at-

ing on up there above the

high at the poles to more than oxygeo atoms - for the lower es form and most of our weather goes on.

Its winds vary from sea free of clouds. breezes at the lowest levels to jet streams of 80 mph or more of about 10C per mile.

tropopause, and above that the stratosphere.

The stratosphere extends to about 30 miles above the

It is a stable region of little wind and its temperature rises slowly with height from about -70C at the tropopause to near zero. The warming is linked to the formation of phere. Varying from five miles sun's ultraviolet radiation on gloves.

10 miles at the equator, it is the stratosphere is where we find layer in which great air mass- the ozooe layer. There is very little water vapour in the stratosphere, so it tends to be

Continuing upwards, we reach the stratopause, theo at heights of six or seven miles. the mesosphere, which extends Within the troposphere, the from about 30 to 50 miles temperature declines at a rate above the earth, through which temperatures decrease from When this temperature OC to about -100C, which is as drop ceases, we reach the cold as the atmosphere gets. Above 50 miles, the atmosphere heats up again in the thermosphere.

> In theory the temperature may rise to 2000C, but in practice the air is so rarefied that there is very little there to get hot at all.

But if you do happen to pick up an oxygen molecule warmed by solar radiation a hundred mosphere is called the tropos- ozone from the action of the miles up, use heavy duty oveo

New deals. Top specs. Top priority.

DELL DIMENSION XPS D333

DELL DIMENSION XPS D233

 Bite. Pentium^a II Processor 233MHz BITEL 440LY AGPSFT

32MR HIGH PERFORMANCE STURAM

- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE - 4.362 ATA-33 HARD DRIVE

STB VELOCITY AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM

POTINOM ABYS FÜROLOD "15"

(0.28 DOT MICH, 13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)

• 3 PCL ? ISA, ? PCL/ISA SRANDO

AND I AGY EXPANSION SLOTS 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE

 YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETANIE SOUNE ISPEAUERS OPTIONAL)

E949 (E1, 150.33)

- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS

Wandows 95 & Mucrosoft*

DELL DIMENSION XPS 0266

HITEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 264MHZ · BITEL 44OLX AGPSET

· AAMS SORAR

• 512KB INTERNAL CACIE

. 6.468 HARD DRIVE • 213 AEDOILA "ARRY YES ARGE CYSD MILE

488 SCRAM VIDEO MERCOLY

 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWALLE AREAS

3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS

- 14/32X CD-BOM DRIVE

 YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND ISPEAKERS OPTIONAL

- MID-STED DESICTOR CHASSES WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97

£1,149 (£1,385.33)

• 64MB SDRAM

· WITEL PENTEUM II PROCESSOR 333/MIZ

SMTEL 440LX AGPSET

• 512KB DITERMAL CACHE

. LAGE HARD DRIVE

STR VELOCITY "VIOLA AGP VIORO CARO

WITH 4MB SERAM VIDEO MEMORY

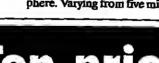
· 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWARLE AREA)

 3 PC, 1 EA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS ?4/32X (D-ROM DRIVE

• YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUNT (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)

MANN TOWER CHASSES WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,379 (£1,655.58)

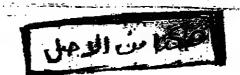


The latest technology and up-to-the-minute value. Those are our top priorities. And that's precisely what our three latest Pentium $^{f e}$ II processor-based systems deliver. Read the specifications, then call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer* or get online to our website quickly. We can't hold these prices long.





way or (30) (CSSS) and Well purposes Process in sec



By Rob Brown Media Editor

Sure The

Sugar

■ Damey

de Vice

Hedyweg.

Michigan

He's backer

केर इंड्रहर आ

imasti cref

if hot air

THE change of ownership of The Independent and Independent on Sunday came at the end of tortuous negotiations and represented the fulfilment of a dream for Tooy O'Reilly, whose Independent Newspapers group concluded the purchase yesterday.

The new owners immediately gave guarantees that the papers would be "signed up to oo political party and free from the taint of commercial pressures".

The oew board "iocluding politicians of different views and eminent journalists, will guarantee the freedom of the editors from those pressures,"

A statement from the board said the owners "today commit themselves to the preservation and growth of the titles as serious and intelligeot broadsheet papers of unimpeachable integrity.

"For its part the board expects the editors to deliver honest decent, liberal-minded papers, which avoid extremism, report accurately and analyse fairly."

The board helieved that "the fuential press is essectial to democracy; and that the best way to preserve that is journalistic excellence, trusted by the public."

the Irish senate and a former Northem Ireland Ombudsman, has joined the board of Independent Newspapers UK, along with the former govemor of Hong Kong, Chris Patteo.

Dr Hayes said: "Independent Newspapers are extending their ownership of The Independent as a matter of commercial common sense, not for trophy hunting, as has been suggested, or to satisfy the whim of the proprietor.

In his view Dr O'Reilly - who is chairman of Independent Newspapers with a 27 per cent stake in the company - believes as much in hands-off proprietorship as the late Breodao Bracken, who became the last Irishman to become a Loodon press baron when he acquired a controlling interest in the Economist and the Financial Times. On one of the few occasions when the editor of the FT felt the need to call him, Lord Bracken simply asked: "Is it about



ture of a varied, free and undefer- Done deal: Brendan Hopkins, Ben Bradlee, Rosie Boycott and Andrew Marr announcing the buy-out of the Independent titles in London yesterday Photograph: Brian Harris

the paper?" "Yes" "You are the Editor," and the phone was put down.

"Dr O'Reilly is very much from Dr Maurice Hayes, a member of the Brendan Bracken mould," said Brendan Hopkins, who yesterday became managing director of Independent Newspapers UK.
Andreas Whittam Smith, who

founded The Independent in 1986 and will remain on the board of the carved out an equally dazzling cor- stake in Ireland's Iodependent

company, said yesterday: "We started The Independent in order to create a oewspaper which was proprietorless. If you are going to have a proprietor, Tony O'Reilly strikes me as really ideal."

Dr O'Reilly was born in Dublin in 1936 and first shot to stardom 29 rugby caps for Ireland. He then

porate career, notably in the dairy industry, where he spearbeaded the hutter brand Kerrygold.

He was soon headhunted by the American food giant HJ Heinz, rising swiftly through its ranks to become CEO and chairman, based at its Pittsburg headquarters. He used his earnings to acquire a cootrolling

Newspapers and a range of other Independent titles, said she looked Irish companies down the years.

His Duhlin-based oewspaper group has expanded steadily. It is rience. "Tony O'Reilly is a great, now the largest newspaper group in Ireland as well as in South Africa, New Zealand and Portugal. It also owns the largest regional oewspaper group in Australia.

Rosie Boycott, editor of the two firm and independent line."

UK, headed by MD Brendan Hopkins, will report to a board of eight chaired by Liam Healy, chief executive

Patten

board

joins the

Newspapers in Ireland. Joining the board is Tony O'Reilly, credited with building the Independent Newspapers empire in Dublin, and Chris Patten (top), former Hong Kong governor and Conservative Party chairman. Also joining is Baroness Helena Kennedy (above), QC and Labour peer, and Dr Manrice Hayes, former Northern Ireland Ombudsman and now Irish Senate member.

founder of The Independent remains on the board, as does Ben Bradlee, former executive

charismatic and inspirational leader, Andreas Whittam Smith, who is tremendously committed to these titles. He wants to see them restored to their former glory right at the top of the market, holding a editor of the Washington Post.

Flagship of a £l bn global empire

By Jeremy Warner Business and City Editor

THE INDEPENDENT and Independent on Sunday are to become part of a global newsshore than Elbs and leading national titles "testry a premium for all broadsheets.

in Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, and Portugal.

Brendan Hopkins, chief executive of Independent Newspapers UK, said he believed a rejuvenated Independent would be a flagship for the group world-wide. The Independent would be positioned as

an unashamedly upmarket newspaper "appealing to a young professional, high-income, educated readership that is truly looking for an independent viewpoint".

There would be immediate and significant investment in editorial quality - a strategy Independent Newspapers believes will paper empire with a stock-market value of eventually justify a pricing policy that will

However, Mr Hopkins stressed the company had oo intentioo of initiating a price premium for the Independent titles in the short term. The two titles, which last year made operation losses of £7m, will be integrated into Independent Newspapers' existing and profitable UK interests. Together, the two operations will have revenues of more than £100m and will be immediately profitable, even after the extra investment on editorial product.

The Independent titles will be integrated -commercially into this existing structure. Joint advertising selling in certain key areas is to start with immediate effect and an exhibitions business is being set up under: based company which was one of the top

the Independent's stewardship. Mirror Group, the primary vendor in the transaction, insisted that the transaction would be positive for both for Mirror Group and . Independent Newspapers. John Allwood, finance director, said Mirror Group had largely written off its investment in the titles over the last four years and would therefore oeed to provide only £8m against its profits this year in connection with the disposal. Mirror will retain a printing, distribution and service contract with the Independent worth a minimum of £17.5m over five years.

forward to working with a manage-

meet steeped in broadsheet expe-

Independent Newspapers, an Irish-

Hhen you're owned by your customers, you look at things in a different way

Our new

performing media shares in the stock markets last year, is spending just short of £30m to buy out the 54 per cent of the Independent titles it does not already own together with associated loans and guarantees. The outstanding equity is being acquired for £3.4m. In addition, Independent Newspapers will assume £26m of Mirror Group loans and guarantees.

Independent Newspapers said it believed that the previous joint shareholding arrangements had restricted the ability of either itself or Mirror to apply its own management expertise to the development of the two titles as fully as each would have

Rape charge man Tory bastion lifts its tells of love for wife ban on women

A WOMAN ran sobbing from as death, but jealousy as cruci as a court after her husband accused of abducting and repeatedly raping her - declared his love for her and waived his right to cross-examine her.

Paul Arvanitakis, who is de-

He had watched her on a dence at the Old Bailey behind screens. She alleged that he had she fights me with hatred." held her in a flat against her will for five days, raping her at least twice a day after she told him she was leaving him for a new life in the United States.

Mr Arvanitakis, 33, from south London, bas deoied sevco charges of rape, and one of false imprisonment in August last year. He has also denied

raping her in July 1996. As he was told by the Recorder of London, Sir her after she finished her eviher face shown on the video decided to leave him. screen in the dock.

As he leant to his feet, he was gan a five-namure memologue with - at the end of a five-day ordeal. the quotation: "Love is as strong

fending himself, said he had my heart. As far as cross-exbeen instructed by Jesus to amination of my wife, who I love show his wife "oothing less and adore with all my heart, I Than the spirit of love" in court. have been instructed by the viden monitor as she gave evi- wife in this court, nothing less than the spirit of love although

> His wife interjected: "I do not Mr Arvanitakis said: "There-

fore your honour, I have no questhen ran sobbing from court.

Earlier, she had broken down in tears as she told the jury how she was abducted and handcuffed in a small flat, after arranging to meet her husband Lawrence: Verney that he could so that he could give her doc-start his cross examination of uments she would need to return to America. She said he dence, Mr Arvanitakis kissed repeatedly raped her after she

held by the judge to stand where sessive husband who imprishe was. Mr Arvanitakis then be-oned her until police rescued her

the grave. Many floods cannot quench love, nor waters drown." As his wife sat sobbing be-

hind the screens, Mr Arvanitakis told the jury: "She is wonderful, beautiful. I love her with all Lord Jesus that I must show my

fight you with hatred - I am scared of you. How can I live with you? How can I trust you?"

tions at all to ask her." His wife

The prosecution alleges Mr Arvanitakis was a violent and ob-

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

ONE OF of the last bastions of all-male clubbishness fell last night when the Carlton Clob, home of the Conservative Party, voted to admit women for the first time in its 166-year

The club only dropped its allmale rule for Baroness Thatcher, who was made an honorary member in 1975 when she became the Tories' first woman leader. However, some in the club regarded her as an "honorary man".

Lesser women were admitted, but have not been allowed full membership until oow. The club, founded in 1832, has about 70 female associate members.

It was still regarded as a club for men, sometimes behaving badly, with a cad's corner beoeath the sweeping staircase. But its strength was based on its role as the natural watering bole of the male establishment.

It has seen prime ministers come and go, including Churchill, and it was been the scene of some serious Tory plotting, including the backbench revolt which led to the creation of the 1922 Committee:



in the club: Churchill

in the late 1980s in the belief that a random attack oo the Carlton Club would have a fair chance of claiming at least one cabinet minister.

Other clubs in St James's such as the Reform had a more fiberal tradition and even allowed women on to the man-

agement committees. The Carltoo Club result, counted by the club's auditors, was: for a rule change to admit women - 577 (59.6 per cent); against - 391 (40.4 per cent). The majority in favour was 186 (19.2 per cent). A total of 968 members voted - 62.5 per cent of the membership and the result will be formally reported to the general committee oo 24 March when it will consider It was bombed by the IRA what steps should be taken.





Credit Card gives

on this new Liverpool Victoria Credit Card gives you a valuable extra safeguard against fraud, as well

And you could also save money with an accordance offer and no annual fee. You even have a choice

of designs! Call now for details on

0800 134 134. . 9.99% APR* introductors

rate when you transfer the balance

from yoor existing cards Earn savings on your Liverpool

It pays you interest when you use

...and a 9.99% RPR introductory rate

Lines open 8.00am - 8.00pm Monday to Friday, 8.00am - 4.00pm Saturda

CRLL 0800 13*4* 13*4* FREE

Liverpool Victoria 2

"We reserve the right to withdraw or vary the introductory transfer belience rate from time to time, but this will not affect the rate applicable to balances already transferred at the time of any withdrawal or variation, 9.9% APR for 3 months for balance transfers this pitter is for 6 months 4 you are an existing Liverpool Victiona/Freezil existence). All rates cornect at time of going to press. A handling charge of 1.5% of the amount of any cash advances will be debated to the account, subject to a moneton of £1.50. This amount is first and the transaction total on the statement. APR for Cash Advances 20.1%, APR for Porchases 18.9% (1.45% monthly microst rates rates are variable, the must pay of least 5% of the existencing amount on your monthly statement or £5 for the full amount it less than £5. A PREE written quotation is available on request. You must be aged 18 or over. The Leaspool Victiona Credit Card is stated by friezed Bank Limited.

Liverpool Victoria Credit Card is a trading name of Friezed Bank Limited.

Liverpool Victoria Credit Card is a trading name of Friezed Bank Limited.

One in 10 heart surgeons investigated

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

ALMOST one io ten heart surgeons has been investigated after questions about their competence were raised by colleagues or

hospital managers. Most were subsequently cleared but the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons says it is concerned the doubts may be affecting the service to paticots. When suspicion hangs over surgeons it can inhibit their readiness to perform high-risk procedures and may deter doctors from taking up the specialty. The 700-member society, which represents all heart surgeons including trainees and the retired, has held an emergency meeting to discuss the issue and will reconsider it at its regular executive meet-

ing later this month. Professor David James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana Wheatley, head of the department of cardiac surgery at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, told Hospital Doctor: "The society is extremely concerned. Cardiac surgery is already a demanding specialty but there is an added pressure from surgeons coming three deny the charges. under public scrutiny and if it is perceived that they are being treated harshly or unfairly people may be put off joining the spe-

He said 18 of the country's 199 consultant cardiothoracic surgeons had been investigated. Heart surgery is a high-risk specialty and a surgeon with a higher than

normal death-rate can be spotted quickly. The development comes as the General Medical Council continues its inquiry into heart surgeons at Bristol Royal Infirmary, where 29 babies died, Surgeons

are charged with serious professional misconduct for continuing to operate despite the high death-rate and trust chief executive John Roylance is similarly charged for allowing the operations to go ahead. All Last year heart surgeon Duncan Walk-

er lost his appeal against a decision by the United Leeds Hospitals Trust requiring him to take early retirement following a complaint against him. Professor Wheatley said: "People who are working hard and have good results are suffering the consequences of a small number of people who are not." A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Surgeons said the cootents of the Hospital Doctor article were "substantially correct" but Professor Wheatley did not wish to make any further comment.

School to teach leeves a lesson

By Barrie Clement

ONE IS not entirely sure what Jeeves would have made of it. An arched eyebrow perhaps, or a Cornish car dealers. a short bout of discrete throat-Lady Apsley School for Butlers ventured, in a moment of uncharacteristic indiscretion, that

But Lady Apsley and her husiness partner. Michael something that most people Shaw, a former under-butter at would only experience if they Buckingham Palace, believe won the lottery," he said. Julian that while certain qualities are inborn, a whole range of skills can be taught - for £3,000.

The first three graduates of the school yesterday served champagne at Lady Apsley's residence in the Cotswolds near Cirencester Park. David, 48, is a former lorry driver who now works as a chauffeur for an "extremely when to shut up."

wealthy person" in the North-west: Robert, 51, trained waiters at a college in Stratford-upon-Avon; and Julian, 34, was a sales manager in

They have been taught how clearing. Or perhaps, as the to buff up a pair of expensive leather shoes, how to lay a table yesterday showed off its first for dinner and how to behave graduates. Jeeves might have when they encounter the lady of the house in flagrante delicto.

David, who will return to his hutlers are born and not made. super rich employer with his new skills, relishes his work: "It's has a job as a butler in the United States and Robert is waiting for something to turn up.

Former comprehensive pupil Michael Shaw, who runs the school with Lady Apsley, says all kinds of people could become hutlers. "We would even take on extroverts, provided they knew



Napkin art: Michael Shaw (centre) teaching Julian Stubbs (left) and David Slater

Photograph: Tom Pilston

Close roads and cars disappear

By Randeep Ramesh

CLOSING roads to motorists can see up to a quarter of traffic "evaporate" from the nation's highways, according to the Government's top adviser on

transport. A survey of 60 cities around the world by Phil Goodwin, professor of transport studies at University College London and head of the Government's expert panel, found that the cheapest and easiest way to cut traffic jams is to close a few roads or limit the space available to cars. Remarkably traffic appears to "disappear".

The findings revealed that traffic declined on altered roads by 41 per cent with less than half of the reduction reappearing on neighbouring roads.

That means on average 25 per cent of the traffic previously using the roads disappeared from the networks died," said Dr Sally Cairns, a researcher at UCL. She said the work showed that "people were much more adaptable in making travel choices than previously assumed".

Civil servants said new research would be commissioned to examine how closing roads would affect people's choices of ravel and the effect on the local economy. "We need to look at how this will work on the local level," said Tom Worsley of the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions. He said the department was inviting local authorities to produce transport lans to cut traffic.

The new research could reroad-building. Last month, a re- and the RAC, found.

port by influential ministerial advisers said that more roads do not mean more jobs. Many environmentalists argue that a huge programme of pedestrianisation would help to reduce traffic and cut urban pollution.

The report showed that more than 33 per cent of traffic dis-appeared from the roads near Hammetsmith Bridge in London after it was closed last year. In Wolverhampton, a controversial package of measures saw congestion cut by 14 per cent.

Cutting down the road space available to cars has been long practised on the Cootinent. The most successful scheme looked at by the researchers a five-year programme in Numberg. Germany - saw traffic fall by 140 per cent in the streets around the "altered" areas.

According to Professor Goodwin a package of measures can "tip the balance" in favour of cutting congestion. "A modest amount of 'disappearing traffic' can be critical when implementing hus lanes and pedestrian areas and for avoiding unacceptable levels of congestion," he added.

But motoring organisations were sceptical of the results. The Royal Automobile Club pointed out that with Hammersmith Bridge closure, neighbouring councils had complained about "extra traffic levels".

■ Efforts to ease road congestion are being hindered by ignorance of public transport alternatives, says a MORI survey. Two in five people do not feel informed about local bus timetables and three in 10 feel the same about train times, the fuel the debate surrounding survey, conducted for Railtrack

rettes

BSE team's

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

AN INDEPENDENT team investigating "mad cow disease" was "horrified" to discover in 1988 that the Ministry of Agriculture was allowing hlatantly diseased animals to be used to make human and animal food, they said yesterday.

Professor Sir Richard Southwood, who chaired the four-man working party which was the first to examine the risks posed to human by "mad cow disease" or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), said that he recalled being told cows showing signs of the illness had their heads cut off with a chain saw once they reached an abat-

But it was not this detail which shocked them, he said: We were mostly horrified that the rest of the animal was going into the food chain," be told the BSE Inquiry in London on the third day of public hearings. Just over two weeks later, new regulations forced the complete destruction of diseased anmals. But the four men who had first drew up recommendations aimed at curbing the BSE epidemic in cattle said they were constantly thwarted by a cost-cutting climate in which science funding was being cut back, and civil servants were apprehensive about the cost of im-

plementing safety measures. They also criticised the failure of the government and local authorities to police their preventative measures - such as banning meat and bone meal from being fed to cattle - which could have shortened the span of the epidemic.

Sir Richard said: "It seems that the ban was not really effective until 1993, thereby extending the epidemic by nearly five years."

They also found scientific experts in disarray, with centres of expertise being shut down so that there were only a limited number of independent experts outside government who could provide advice.

Sir Richard recalled that in assessing the risk posed to humans, We knew that MAFF were anxious and had a marked tendency to be 'optimistic'."

However, the four members of the committee said yesterday that even with hindsight. they would not change their broad recommendations. But other members - significantly, Sir Richard - disagreed: "I wouldn't ban beef on the bone, he said later. "I would inform people about the relative risks."

I shrunk the Call the Motor Insurance Hotline now to see if you can shrink yours. 0345 123 111 Hill House Hammond Over 200 branches nationwide

combettoi discounts

Every day more and more new telecome companies: run ads saying they can save your business more A THE PARTY WAS TO SEE THE money than BT

But the savings are often not what they seem.

Our competitors rarely take into account our discounts and will compare their best rates against BTs basic undiscounted rates.

BT offer significant discounts on all your business.

in as

with some of the confidence of the case CATE LONGING COMES PRINTED OF THE WAY service you expect from BP

To find out just how competitive ET is call as an Free/me 090/1 900 600 4

Barnstorming Wagner finds a perch in the Cotswolds

By Kim Sengupta

IT IS oot perhaps the archetypal venue for some of the great opera classics. Not long ago the stage where the arias will be sung reverberated to the cackling of hens and moo-

But the former barn will this summer bost the Longborough Opera Festival, with the staging of Das Rheingold, and The Barber of Seville and The Magic Fluie to follow.

The musical director for the Wagner epic is Alistair Dawes, for years head of music at the Royal Opera House and who has worked with some of the most renowned conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Sir Colin Davis and Bernard Haitink. He has also conducted Peter Grimes at the Royal Opera House.

Mr Dawes could be forgiven for feeling a surreal sense of déjà vu at the former hen house in Martin Graham's Gloucestershire farm. It has 400 plush red auditorium seats from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as well as boxes. Chandeliers hang from the ceiling, and the outside is a mock-Palladian facade, with intricately ornate doors and windows. The facade was designed by the Circocester-based architect John Whittoo and is constructed from concrete blocks and paving slabs. Wooden cut-outs of Rossini, Verdi, Mozart, Puccini and Wagner, made by local artists, are bolted on when the operas are staged.

Mr Graham's frieods and supporters describe him as a 1990s Renaissance man. A property developer, he has commercial interests across Europe, headquarters in London, and a deep cultural interest in music



Pecking order: Martin Graham at his theatre with some of the original inhabitants, and seats from the Royal Opera House

Graham claims no council consent was

agricultural building for most of the year.

ing to ride roughshod over planning law." Mr ed the facade to be replaced by a wall which want to do is to share what we have with othwould be more in keeping with other strucers. My family has always been interested in needed to build the facade because the Gen-tures in the area, But officialdom relented the opera and this seems a worthwhile eral Development Order allows a farmer to and the novel opera house was allowed to build a wall around his barn, and his is an continue its existence. As the preparations thing to do. Some people speed their monwent oo for Rheingold, Mr Graham said: "It ey on Ferraris; I choose to do it oo opera."

Cotswold District Council at first want- involves giants trying to destroy Valhalla, some may say not unlike the council. All we

Hanratty test 'inconclusive'

DNA TESTS to establish whether James Hanratty, who was hanged in 1962 for the A6 murder, was wrongly executed are inconclusive and must be taken again, it emerged yesterday.

Michael Hanratty, his brother, last night insisted that the conviction is set to be overturned following assurances from the Criminal Cases Review Commission. DNA samples from Hanratty's brother are being compared with samples from the underwear of the victim's mistress, Valerie Storie; she was raped and shot in the attack in which scientist Michael Gregsten was killed. - Jason Bennetto

MP fined

MICHAEL COLVIN, 65, Tory MP for Romsey Hampshire, was last night fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £14,000 costs by Alton magistrates, when he was convicted of polluting ground water beneath his farm in 1996. lan Hewish, 54, the farm foreman, had denied causing farm effluent to enter ground water beneath Home Farm, oear Andover; he was cooditionally discharged for six months and ordered to pay costs of £290.

Wreck inquiry

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, will today launch a public inquiry into the sinking of the MV Derbyshire in which all 44 crew died. Mr Prescott will also present the findings of a £2m investigatioo into the causes of the sinking, 1,000 miles off Japan, in 1980. - Randeep Ramesh

Labour favours voluntary curbs on cigarettes

By Glenda Cooper

eam's

favour voluntary measures rather than actual legislation to ban lighting up in public places, Action on Smoking and Health (Ash) said yesterday.

The anti-smoking group's commeots came in the wake of yesterday's report by the Scieotific Committee on Tobacco and Health which linked passive smoking to lung cancer and urged the Government to consider restricting smoking in public places oo the grounds of public health.

In America several states have brought in anti-smoking y legislation. On 1 January, California banned smoking in virtually all public buildings, including all watering holes, whether regular bars, nightclubs or casinos.

While smoking has been outlawed from restaurants in California for some time as in many US cities this was a step forward, with its detractors comparing it to Prohibition.

The same thing is unlikely to happeo in the same way here. It is understood that the Government is unlikely to bring in specific laws but would favour voluntary measures instead.

This would meao that employees could object to working somewhere where smoking was allowed by complaining under Health and Safety at Work legislation, reminding , Tobacco barons refuse to back

ed by the report linking passive

smoking and luog cancer; the

tobacco industry stuck to its

guns that there was no link es-

long line that have warned that

breathing someone else's

smoke can cause lung cancer

writes Glenda Cooper, Social

Affairs Correspondent and and

of comprehensive reviews of the

effects of passive smoking were

published, culminating io a

ronmental Protection Agency in

major review by the US Envi-

drew Yates.

tablished. Who is right?



employers of their duty to their workers. Several cases of bar staff suing their employers have been raised in receot months.

"I think what the Government hopes for is that what will happen is what happened in cinemas where cinema-owners got fed up of cleaning up the places and found that their customers actually wanted smoke-free cinemas," said Clive Bates of Ash.

Smoking-related illnesses are said to account for 50 million lost working days a year and some firms have threatened to dock pay off workers who take cigarette breaks. Essex County Council in Harlow has told employees they must clock off before taking a smoking break outside the non-smoking building after a study suggested that smokers spent an average of 40 minutes a day on cigarette

And Biggs and Shoe Mines.

a chain of shoe shops in the North-west, believes that the 12 years during which it paid nonsmokers a 10p-an-hour bonus led to a healthier and more efficient workforce.

as well as the desire to bring it to the colour are an eyesore and Mr Graham is try-

Cotswolds. Not everyooe shares this view.

of wonderful natural beauty. The Council for

the Protection of Rural England has objected.

Vera Burke, a member who lives in the vil-

lage, complained: "Both the design and

Some accuse him of despoiling an area

Perhaps the most serious threat the tobacco industry faces at the moment is potential hitigation. In America last year British American Tobacco and other US tobacco giants such as Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco thrashed out a landmark deal with the United States Attorney General for a \$370bo tobacco settlement, to be paid over the next 25 years. This came in response to a stream of litigation against the tobacco industry which threat-

ened to turn into a flood. If this ruling is adopted by the US Congress it will allow BAT to escape from class actions and punitive damage awards but not restrict individual litigants claiming against the tobacco groups.

American tobacco litigation cost BAT £345m last year, including £258m worth of provisions for payments to health aothorities in Texas, Mississippi and Florida to cover patient

Here litigation is becoming more of a reality. Last month judges ruled that lawyers fighting the case for 43 smokers on a "no-win, no-fee" basis should not personally have to foot the estimated £9m legal bill even if

"NEC'S DIRECTION SP-333L IS THE FASTEST WINDOWS 95 PERFORMER IN ITS CLASS

PC MAGAZINE APRIL ISSUE 1998*



512KB Internal Cache

8.4GB EIDE Ultra ATA Hard Drive ATI Xpert@Play

3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM

Seciprim. (Minl Tower option) 17" NEC A700 MultiSync Monitor (0.28 dot pitch;

15.8" viewable) • 14-32x CD-ROM Drive 12 MONTHS NEXT **BUSINESS DAY**

£1,549 (£1,854.15 ==

NEC PCs are designed for business from just £649

NEC DIRECTION SM-266L

Intel 266MHz Pentium*Il

Intel 440LX chipset

32MB SDRAM 512KB Internal Cache

4-3GB EIDE Ultra ATA Hard Drive ATI Xpert@Play 3D Graphics Accelerator with 4MB SGRAM video memory

15" NEC C550 Colour Monitor (0.28 dot pitch; 14.0" viewable) 14-32x CD-ROM Drive

sound card (SoundBlaster compatible)

Labtec 1025 Speakers and Microphone Microsoft Works,

ritel inside

MS Money, MS Golf and MS Autoroute Mini Tower Chassis

(Desktop option) 12 MONTHS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

£999 (£1,207.90 🐨)

DIRECT

Whatever your requirements, from an entry-level desktop to a powerful Whatever your requirements, from an entry-level desktop to workstation, NEC Direct builds-in great quality and support.

All NEC Direction PCs:-

• COME WITH 12 MONTHS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

are fully upgradable and built to order

come with a lifetime of telephone technical support

NEC Computer Systems, a Division of Packard Bell NEC (GB) Ltd

The right Direction for your Business



1993 which classified Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) as a class A carcinoguo. Last November the British Medical Journal carried an analysis of 37 published epi-

THE health lobby was delight- demiological studies looking at more than 4000 cases. It coocluded that the risk of

lung cancer in life-long nonsmokers who lived with a smoker was 24 per cent, and that tobacco-specific carcinogens in The report is the latest in a the blood of non-smokers provided clear evidence of this.

While the evidence linking passive smoking and lung cancer is far weaker than that of active smoking, the cumulative evidence points that way. During the 1980s a number

The tobacco industry refuse to accept these findings saying that the relative risks are not sig-

The Tobacco Manufactures' Associatioo claimed yesterday that of 60 studies they had looked at 80 per cent showed no significantly statistical increase. Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT, said yester-

down in passive smoking battle day that he was convinced that passive smoking was not a

> There have been four reports into passive smoking so far and cone of them has been statistically conclusive," he said. "One eveo suggested that passive smoking actually re-

> duced the risk of death." The tobacco companies claim a World Health Organisation paper, leaked at the weekend, proved there was no link between passive smoking

and lung cancer. The WHO say BAT have misinterpreted the data and there was actually an estimated 16 per cent increased of lung cancer among oon-smoking spouses of smokers and the British Medical Association accused the tobacco industry of "desperate disinformatioo".

Pupils let down by affluent councils

By Judith Judd Education Editor

THOUSANDS of middle-class pupils are being let down by their local education authorities, according to figures revealed in a far-reaching study published

The Audit Commission report shows startling differences in standards in local authorities remarkable to find that some of serving similar areas. Schools in some affluent authorities are country are producing GCSE coasting by oo standards which comparable to those in the are oo better than those in some of the poorest.

Figures for the 15 most afflueot councils show that the worst-performing afflueot ing." council, Lincolnshire, does oo better in its GCSE results than cils are issuing statements for Camdeo io Loodoo which pupils with special educational comes top of the 15 poorest needs more quickly than they councils

Poverty is oot oecessarily e har to high standards. Schools' thorities in which the wait is unacademic performance in some acceptably long. In Barnsley, poor authorities is twice as almost oo statements were progood as that in other similar ar- duced within the Government's

pupils getting five or more good do little better. GCSEs. Southwark, another of the 15 poorest authorities with 20 per cent yet the differ- mance of the bottom six or sev-

receiving free school meals - the plan." figure used to measure deprivation - is 37 per cent in Cam- the study shows, funding per den and 49 per cent in Southwark.

Hackney, where ministers last ceot and secondary by 4 per year seot in a hit squad to sort coot. But the study emphasises out the education authority, does surprisingly well. It comes good results. Lincolnshire, for seventh, though the propor- instance, speods £2,405 per tion of pupils taking free school - pupil while Buckinghamshire meals figure is 55 per cent. spends £2027 and Camden Kensington and Chelsea, where spends £300 less than Southit is 44 per cent, comes second. wark.

upon-Thames, North Yorkshire and Dorset come top of the affluent councils while the East Riding of Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Hereford and Worcester join Lincolnshire at the bottom.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, welcomed the report. "It is the least deprived areas in the most deprived areas. This shows that poverty is no excuse for poor standards and that some better areas are guilty of coast-

The report shows that counwere a year ago, but complains that there are still some au-18-week time target. Sandwell, Camden has 40 per cent of Sefton, Stockport and Salford

Paul Vevers, the commis-London borough, comes bottom sion's director of audit, said: "What can explain the perforence in deprivation is much less. eo authorities? Couocillors The proportion of pupils must draw up an urgent action

Under the last government, pupil fell'sharply in real terms between 1993 and 1997. Primary The Loodon borough of school speoding fell by 2 per that money does not guarantee



Paul Priestman, the designer of the Instant Fisher Price camera which prints on fun paper

Cook has designs on selling Britain

By Nonie Niesewand

ROBIN COOK unveiled a collection of designer gizmos in his office yesterday which he into functional. is going to sell around the

Wraparound sunglasses for Nike, an underwater camera, an orange bubbly vinyl cover for a Pet Shop Boys CD, a Swatch telephone shaped like an inner sole and Wallace and Gromit are just a few of the things that will greet visiting dignitaries meeting the

Foreign Secretary.

ight the fact that British designers with an international profile can put back the fun. British design".

But it is more than e beauty contest. "Foreign ambassadors may be amused and encouraged to use the mobile phones, cameras and sunglasses," Mr Cook believes. The display will stand for

bition will only be changed once because not many statesmen visit twice.

The first step in a Foreign The collection was chosen Office initiative to brand or a speak bubble. Its mi- Stormer's 'Le Grande Bleue'

by the Design Council to high- Britain abroad, Robin Cook crochip is made in Scotland, hopes that it will " get across the message on the quality of

Carefully avoiding any reference to "Cool Britannia", the Foreign Secretary explained that he was following e tradition set by Palmerston, who was "rathless about promoting British trade".

The Fisher Price camera at least a year, and the exhifor children instantly prints out the image taken onto fax paper patterned with the background of a hundred dellar bill, or a TV screen framing it,

the rest is made in the Far East, the client is American and you can't buy it in Britain. But Mr Cook isn't fussed.

"Sure, I'd rather that historically we had explored the strength of British design. But there are still 25,000 people across Britain employed in design. The design industry is a big industry. And yes, who wouldn't want to see more made in Britain? But sometimes it is appropriate to man-

ufacture elsewhere." Two buildings - Alsop and

Marseilles and Norman Foster's Reichstag in Berlin are included in the showcase. The Government is as interested in the design of buildings

as in products. So what would the Foreign Secretary like most?

"Should we ever serve canned drinks, I shall crush the cans afterwards" he said, demonstrating the bottle green Attila can crosber and proving that his 18th century table was too flimsy for this robust activity.

Design, page 17

Brit cool turns to chill for Blair

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR was "unphased" yesterday after having cold water poured on his government from the rock stars who last year were the toast of Downing

Like the dousing of John Prescott of the Brit awards last mooth, the stars led by Jarvis Cocker of Pulp told Mr Blair that his way of ruling Britannia was decidedly "uncool".

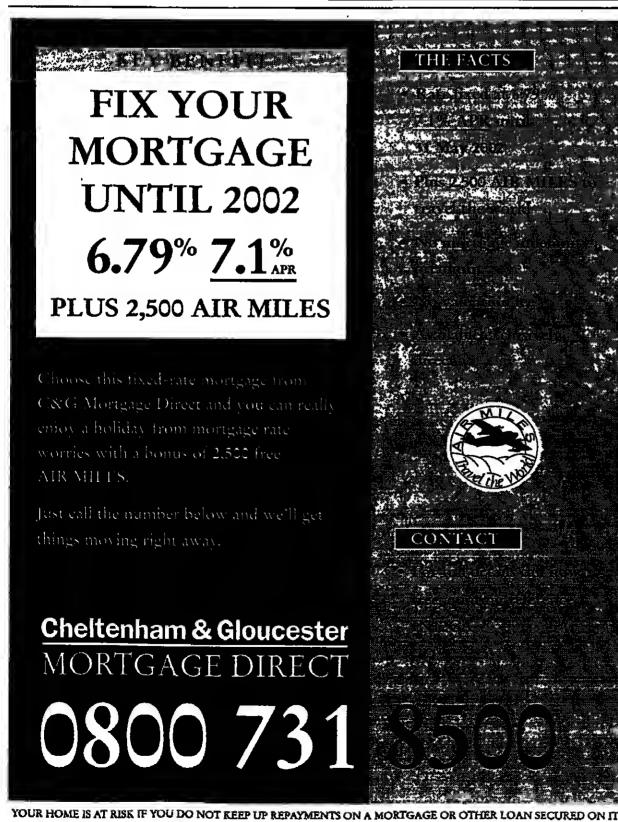
Cocker said: "It's worse than if the Tories got in, in a way, because with the Tories you would expect the same uld shit to happeo." Tim Burgess of the Charletans said there did oot seem to be a great deal of difference between the uld Tories and new Labour. Ian Broudie of the Lightning Seeds said it was "the same company but there's a different bloke in charge".

Eveo Alan McGee of Creation Records, who has been hrought in to join a government task force, said that a lot of what Mr Blair's government was do-

ing was making things worse. But the Prime Minister's official spokesman yesterday dismissed their criticism as "out of

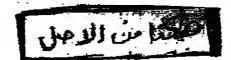
tune" with the British people. Steven Wells, a writer for NME music newspaper, said the friction between the pop world and the Government had come to a head when a bucket of water was thrown over Mr Prescott at the Brit awards. "New Labour has felt oble to use the credibility and the cache of Cool Britannia, which is essentially rock'n roll, willy-nilly without actually giving us anything back in the way of policies. If you actually look at Labour policies, we've been stabbed in the back again and again."

But Downing Street was whistling through the cold shower of disillusionment. The Prime Minister's official spokesman said of Mr Blair: "He has talked about a post-euphoria, pre-delivery phase and that is the phase we are in."





put it on BARCLAYCARD

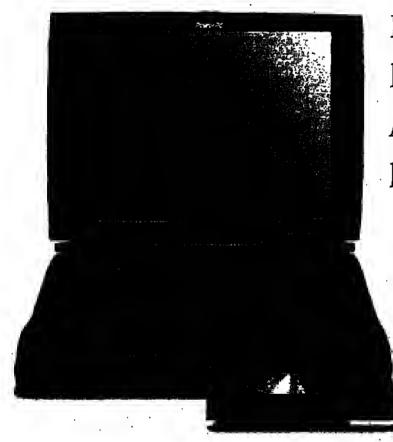


Brit cool turns to chill for Blair

Think less.

Macintosh PowerBook is now more affordable than you thought.





If you've contemplated the idea of a new Macintosh™ PowerBook, but have been holding back because of the cost—think again. Why? Because Apple Resellers are now selling the Macintosh PowerBook 1400 from as little as £999 ex.VAT (£1173.83 inc. VAT).

But if you thought this price tag just bought you a basic system, nothing could be further from the truth.

The PowerBook 1400 comes with 16MB of RAM and a feisty 166Mhz PowerPC* 603e processor. For multimedia and presentations, there's an 8x-speed CD-ROM drive, 11.3-inch colour display and built-in sound. And to keep you connected, networking capabilities are built-in as standard.

Add to this, the fact that the PowerBook 1400 comes with ClarisWorks[™] and the Apple Internet Assistant—and you've got a system that's ready-to-use from the moment you open up the box.

So if you think the Apple PowerBook 1400 is right for you call your nearest Apple Authorised Reseller today.



Authorised Reseller

Town/City	Reseller	Telephone No
Aberdeen	Scotsys Computer Systems	01224 873737
Alfreton, Nr Derby	Gordon Harwood Computers Ltd	01773 836781
Barnsley	F H Brown Plc	01226 777110
Bellshill	Scotsys Computer Systems	01698 846001
Birmingham	PCM Technologies Ltd	0121 585 019
Brentford .	Computer Warehouse Ltd	0181 400 1234
Burnley	F H Brown Plc	01282 833357
Cambridge	AppleCentre Cambridge	01223 247111
Cambridge	ME Electronics	01223 350216
Canterbury	First Temptation Computers Ltd	01227 764455
Carshalton	MacLine	0181 401 1111
Cheltenham	Grafx Digital Technologies Ltd	01242 245005
Edinburgh	Scotsys Computer Systems	0131 557 5995
Glasgow	PCM Technologies Ltd	0141 943 0566
Glasgow	Scotsys Computer Systems	0141 339 9627
Guildford	The Mac Zone	0800 393 696
Hampton Hill	Computercare	0181 943 3922
Leeds	Computercare	0113 242 0601
London, E15	PCM Technologies Ltd	0181 519 4497
London, N7	MR Systems	0171 700 2121
ondon, NW1	Camelot	0171 383 2727
London, NW4	AppleCentre Chromasonic	0181 203 8989
ondon, NW10	SRS Systems Ltd	0800 731 6198
London, SE12	Mygate Ltd	0800 018 9092
London, SW1V	Trams Plc	0171 544 1222
ondon, W10	London Graphic Systems	0181 964 9772
ondon, W1	Micro Anvika Ltd	0171 636 2547
London, W14	Tasha Computers	0171 602 9444
London, W1N	Albion Computers Plc	0171 323 0220
Manchester	F H Brown Plc	0161 661 1099
Wilton Keynes	Orchard Computing Ltd	01908 640313
Nottingham	Jigsaw Systems Ltd	0115 916 5599
Oxford	ME Electronics	01865 728700
Reading	ME Electronics	0118 950 0551
Reading	Thames Valley Systems Pic	0118 950 3500
Romford	EuroMac	01708 479898
Slough	ApplePoint Thames Valley	01753 518866
lelford	Kinetsys Ltd	01952 246111
lewkesbury, Gloucestershire	AT Computers	01684 291112
Turners Hill, West Sussex	PCM Technologies Ltd	01342 717175
Warrington	AppleCentre Warrington	01925 444499
Watford	MacWarehouse	0800 181 332
/ork	The Saville Group Ltd	01904 782782
V.Ireland, Dungannon	Office Overload	01868 727323

The above does not constitute a full listing of Apple Resellers.

Performance art: a star-studded cast for the Royal Opera House's hall of fame

Qualcast Classic 35s Petrol Cylinder Mower

Save *£*70

Now £319



Black & Decker

GTC390 Cordless

Hedge Trimmer **£84-99**

Free *£*10

Voucher

Black & Decker

GLC120 Cordless

Grass Trimmer

Free *E*10 Voucher

£84.99

Black & Decker GRC730 Cordless

Rotary Mower

Free *E*20

Voucher

Flymo Micro Lite **Hover Mower**

£42-99

£19499





Qualcast Quadtrak

Rotary Mower

Was ,689-79",674-79

Over 15% Off

Black & Decker GD200 Lawnraker £64.99

Flymo Micro

Compact 300 Plus

Vas £109-77 £79-77

Now E97-99

Save *E*12

Hover Collect Mower

Qualcast QX

for Classic 35s

Was 574-99 £69-99

Now E67-49

Sovereign

Mower £249.99

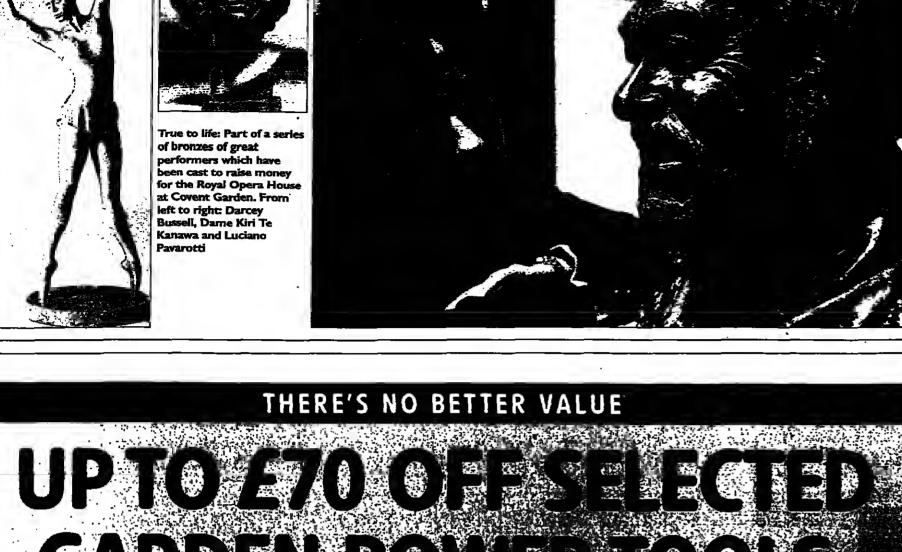
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

MONDAY-THURSDAY BAM - BPM - FRIDAY BAM - 9PM - SATURDAY BAM BPM + SUNDAY 10AM - 4PMT

Self-Propelled Petrol Rotary

10% Off

Scarifier Cassette





By David Lister Arts New Edior

THE Government will be challenged tonight to help end the crisis in the arts by making all donations to the arts tax de-ductible - a change advocated

in The Independent's campaign. Mark Fisher, minister for the arts, will be one of the speakers at a special debate on arts funding organised by The Independent and The Royal

And he will be told by fellow panellist Peter Jenkinson, director of the New Art Gallery, Walsall, that the changes we want to be announced in next week's Budget would alleviate the crisis affecting many regional galleries.

Pointing to the exhibition Art Treasures of England, The Film Classification and Regional Collections, currently Jonathan Holloway, of Red on show at the Royal Academy. Mr Jenkinson will say: "We should pause to reflect upon the enormous generosity of former enjoy what we see on the walls

"In the mean-spirited 1990s, when everything has a price, a reminder of such public-spiritedness in such bage proportions is refreshing to witness.

"Public spiritedness toward the arts today will be lungely encouraged by the incentive that all contributions should be tax deductible. People want to support their favourite galleries and other arts institutions. They should be supported in this wish, not discouraged from do-

al Academy this evening.

He will be part of a panel that will include Jude Kelly, artistic director of the West is a charity. In addition tax re-Yorkshire Playhouse, Genista lief can only be claimed on do-McIntosh, executive director nations above £250, a deterrent of the National Theatre, David to many who would like to Gordon, secretary of the Roy- help the arts.

SAVE THE

al Academy and Peter Jenkinson. The debate will be charred by the broadcaster and arts writer Melvyn Bragg, Leading figures in the arts in the invited audience will include Phillip Hedley of the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Jennifer Edwards of the National Campaign for the Arts, Andreas Whittam Smith of the British Board of Shift Theatre.

The Royal Academy of Arts and The Independent Forum on Government Funding of the generations who enable us to Arts will look at the future of arts funding in Britain, following The Independent and Inde-pendent on Sunday campaign urging the Chancellor, Gor-don Brown, to make all dona tions to the arts tax deductible in the forthcoming budget.

A simple system could be brought in to replace the muddled and cumbersome system of tax relief through covenants and the Gift Aid Scheme.

This would massively increase the amount of money individuals give to the arts, and help end the financial crisis cultural institutions are facing.

Mr Fisher will speak for the Government in the debate, anomalies. Some arts organish which will be held at the Roy sations are charities, others are

Tax relief can only be claimed where the organisation





Challenge: New Art Gallery director Peter Jenkinson (left) and arts minister Mark Fisher

DAILY POEM

Florence Nightingale

By Michael Longley

Through your pocket glass you have let disease expand To remote continents of pain where you go far With rustling cuff and starched apron, a soft hand: Beneath the bandage maggots are stitching the scar.

For many of the men who lie there it is late And you allow them at the edge of consciousness The halo of your lamp, a brothel's fanlight Or a night light carried in by nanny and nurse.

You know that even with officers and clergy Moustachioed lips will purse into fundaments And under sedation all the bad words emerge To be rinsed in your head like the smell of wounds,

Death's vegetable sweetness at both rind and core -Name a weed and you find it growing everywhere.

Our daily poems until tomorrow come from Penguin Modern Poets 13 (Penguin, £7.99), which will be the last volume in this influential series. It contains a selection from the work of Michael Hofmann, Michael Longley and Robin Robertson, chosen by the poets themselves.

or offers at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. Prices marked include discount. 1. To spend in Sainsbury's, Savacence or Homebese when you buy this Item, See Instore Seelies. Offers and 22nd Herchandise subject to Item and Offers may vary at Horsbern heland and Gre. 1Stores or Scotland-open Sunday Fam-Spm. Opening times may vary. Please call 8645 807 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

HEALTH INSURANCE Low cost? 🖾 YES! Full cover? 2 YES!

Prime Health Pay less for quality



Ringo drums up funds for cancer care appeal

Ringo Starr helping to launch Marie Curie Cancer Care's £32m Golden Daffodll appeal in Hyde Park, central London, yesterday. The former Beatle's first wife died of leukaemia in 1995 and his present wife's mother died of cancer a year ago Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

MPs warn of purse-to-wallet pitfall in new tax credit

Economics Editor

MPS WARNED the Government that it must ensure plans to replace Family Credit with a new tax credit in next week's Budget do not switch cash from women to men in low-income households.

In its report on tax and benefit reform, the Commons select committee oo social security said the planned working families tax credit could cost women up to £40 a week, leaving them with an unfair share of the family income and harming the interests of their

It rejected Treasury evidence that there was little risk of a . "purse to wallet" transfer resulting from the abolition of Family Credit, saying it would scrutinise carefully the practi-



ernment's proposals.

The report concluded that families must be given the choice between receiving the new tax credit in the pay packet -- which goes to the man in nine nut of 10 eligible couples -- or having it paid directly to the principal carer, which is the situation now.

The MPs on the influential

committee accepted evidence from experts that income was not shared fairly within househnids. Research showed that womeo were more likely to spend income on children.

According to the committee: "Whatever the other merits of paying through the wage packet, any transfer of income from women to men implicit in payment through the wage packet would not be in the best interests of children."

It noted that Martin Taylor, chairman of the Government's taskforce on tax and benefit reform, had recognised this and regarded protecting the interests of children as essential. Gurdon Brown will announce the details of the Working Families Tax Credit, a key element in the his policies to improve the rewards from work for those on low pay, in Tuesday's Budget.

Yesterday's report emphasised the importance of help with childcare, saying: "We recommend that a very high priority be given tn assisting low-income households with the cost of childcare."

This is something the Chancellor has signalled he will address in the Budget, although the likely scale of any new childcare credit is unclear:

While welcoming the broad thrust of the Government's approach to tax and benefit reform, the select committee's report expressed other doubts about the Working Families Tax Credit.

One concern was whether encouraging people to work was the right priority for all families, especially those with very young children.

In addition, it said that the administration of the existing

Family Credit by the Benefits Agency was very efficient. The Government must set targets to ensure the new system is run just as effectively by the Inland Revenue, and that recipients are guaranteed a fixed level of payment for six months at a time to provide stability.

The new system must also address the needs of the self-employed, the MPs said.

They can receive Family Credit, but, as they have no pay packet, it is not clear how they will be paid the Working Families Tax Credit.

The select committee stressed that although the new credit would require the Inland Revenue to assess the tax of claimant couples jointly, there should be no question of ending individual and independent taxation for the ma-

Tory sell-offs denounced as 'Arthur Daley _a economics'

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

THE Conservative government was guilty of "Arthur Daley. economics," a minister claimed yesterday as oew criticisms emerged of financial practices before the general election.

report on water privatisation of Conservative rule.

"The Torics were caught practising Arthur Daley economics and flogging off the nation's assets as if they were at a car boot sale. It is no wonder they were kicked out of office,"

As Mr McCartney issued his statement, a further NAO report criticised the £1.25m purchase in 1990 of an NHS information system. The system's author was employed to develop it despite owning a firm which went then made £850,000 profit from it over five years.

Sir John Bourn, the head of the NAO, says in the report that the deal had created a potential conflict of interest for Dr Dr Read, a GP based io

Leicestershire, had spent a great deal of his own time aod money developing Read Codes. a computer-based thesaurus of communicate with one anoth-

sen for adoption across the NHS and in December the fullowing year Dr Read agreed to sell them for £600,000 -- a figure which then rose to £1.25m two months later.

Dr Read then became the

first director of the new NHS Ceotre for Coding and Classification, which developed the codes. His firm, Computer Aided Medical Systems Limited, was given exclusive rights to dis-

tribute and support them. Sir John's report is particularly critical of the way the Ian McCartney, the trade NHS executive handled the isand industry minister, said a suc. It had finally decided to redamning National Audit Office place Dr Read as director of the was an indictment of 18 years after the NAO investigation into the case had begun.

"In particular we believe [the executive] should make it clear that the NHS should not employ people to develop or promote goods or services in which they have a financial interest," the report said.

Last night, the NHS executive said it would respond fully to the criticisms at a hearing nf the Commons Public Accounts Committee oo 23 March. It remained fully committed to Dr Read's system as a standard vocabulary for the NHS, it added.

The Conservative administration came under further fire yesterday from Tony Blair after an NAO report warned that more than £300m was missing from a pension fund set up following the privatisation of the water industry.

"It is extraordinary that as a result of Conservative privaticlioical terms and synonyms sations literally hundreds of designed to allow doctors in millions of taxpayers' money was lost - mnney that was squandered, money that could In 1988, the codes were cho-

vices," the Prime Minister said.
"The very fact that they behaved so badly when privatising some of our essential public services is the reason why they must never be allowed back in charge of those services again."

The features Ford couldn't

TOYOTA STARLET 1.3i.

0-60 mph, 11.9 seconds.

Driver's airbag.

Front seat belt pre-tensioners.

Immobiliser.

Side impact beams.

1.3-litre, 16-valve engine. High-mounted stop lamp.

Tinted glass.

Body coloured bumpers.

Remote boot and fuel filler

Side rubbing strip.

£7,995

FORD FIESTA 1.3i ENCORE.

0-60 mph, 14.8 seconds.

Driver's airbag.

Front seat belt pre-tensioners.

Side impact beams.

£8,615

Sega tries to lure older game addict

THE SEGA games giant is branching out into sportswear, watches, bags and in-line skates in a hid to win back the man who has slightly outgrown com-

puter games. Chrissie Kenton, from First Artists Licensing, who is helping market the goods for Sega, said: "Ideally, the target is for male 16-25 year olds, but we're also looking at the men in their

early thirties. "A lot of men go away from computer games in their late twenties while they marry and have kids, and then in their thirties computer games become a

sort of hobby for them." Sega's main market will be men who still play their sports games and want to look "cool and trendy."

Ms Kenton said: "It's a first, and branding is very much the way forward. It could lead to loads of other items being sold, including chocolate."

One of Sega's main computer games rivals, Sony, says it is already selling T-shirts, tops and sportswear on a smaller scale through its Sony PlaySta-

tion magazine. A spokeswoman said: "It's relatively new, and only available in the UK. But sales are going well, and if it takes off we might consider selling via the In-

Major retailers C & A Debenhams and the House of Fraser are all planning to stock Sega clothes, which could be available as early as this sum-



For more information call 0800 777555. THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

Why children say bunking off school is cool

why Lily and Lucy started. And once they had started, they found they couldn't stop.

Lily, who is 16, has cot attended school regularly since she was 11. "It's the peer pressure thing. We started bunking off a lesson in the toilets for a laugh. Theo you do it for a day. a week, a month.

"The first time I bunked off, for three days no one noticed. School is boring. The excitement of bunking is that you might get caught. Sometimes you want to be caught."

She forged sickness notes from her parents and hung about in friends' houses, burger bars and Oxford Street shops. She isn't aoti-education, just anti-school. Now she has a home tutor and is studying for GCSEs and planning to go to college.

Lucy, who attends an all-girls school, did not start truanting until she was 12. "People kept saying to me why don't you bunk off. So I did. Theo I kept missing things and it's hard to go back because you have to go back. The others look down oo

Michelle, 15, also feels she telling the Prime Minister?

BUNKING off is cool. That's More fun and less pressure are what youngsters want, reports Judith Judd

> is trapped in a pattern she canoot break. "Teachers should be more understanding. We are doing Macbeth and I keep missing bits so I get confused. The teacher just says, you doo't come to school, why should I bother with you?"

Sometimes she gets as far as the bus-stop in the morning but

For Jack, aged 13, it was not peer pressure but hullying which ted to two mooths' truanting. He told his pareots he was going to schools each day then hung about in Camden Town. Unlike another panel member, who was beateo up in his first week by sixth-formers, he was not physically attacked, but his classmates made racist

A social worker found him roaming the streets and be has oow been hack at school for a month. He doesn't know why, hut the racist taunts have stopped.

So what will be they be

Most wish someone had tried harder to keep them in school. "Schools should be harder places to escape from," says

"There should be more social workers to help people back," says Jack.

"There should be less pressure," says Serra, aged 14. "It's the pressure of having to get up in the morning. It's the pressure of teachers oot letting you go at your own speed and piling on the work. It would be better to do fewer GCSEs."

Hollie, 12, says: "Teachers should make lessons more fun and interesting instead of just telling us to copy things down in a book." Micbael, aged 14, says:

Teachers should be more frieodly. They shout at you about missing lessons and that makes you dislike them more."

He is not worried about leaving school without qualifications. He intends to be a black cab driver like several of his re-



School's out: A group of truants from London on a panel that will advise the Government's social exclusion unit

Photograph: Rui Xavier

Pupils' panels to advise Blair on solution

Education Editor

CHILDREN who regularly skip school joined panels yesterday to advise the

Prime Minister on how to tackle truster. Unisoo and the National Association of Social Workers have invited 100 children to take part in panels in Loodon, ocial excinsion unit.

Unison reckons that 900,000 children -one in ten - play truant. Some are as young as seven.

John Findlay, the union's national officer for social services, said: "It is the first time kids have had a chance to talk

Scotland and the north-west. Their about this as a groop. They say school ideas will be sent to the Government's is boring and frustrating. There is peer pressure to skip school. Most of them feel they can't go back to school because they will get told off.

"It doesn't seem to be a very bealthy way of dealing with the problem. "We have to look at wider things, at

schools' attitudes, at parents' attitudes

- many parents encourage it - and at social and economic reasons.

"Many of these kids want an education but not this one. A lot of them are really bright kids. 800,000 kids can't

"There is something wrong with our social and educational system and we need to take a fresh look at it."

The Link **ON PAGERS**

THE LOW COST WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH ● NO ON-GOING . ● NO CONTRACT . ● LIGHTWEIGHT

• EASY-TO-USE

AND COMPACT



MOTOROLA **PAGEONE MINICALL TEXT PAGER**

 One line, 16 character backlit display Stores up to 15 messages

 Choice of 6 alerts, including vibrate ■ Built-in clock/alarm

Model: ALPHA EXPRESS Was £69.99 **VOUCHER PRICE**

In-store Price £59.99

The Link DISCOURT YOUCHER MOTOROLA PAGEONE MINICALL NUMERIC PAGER Top mounted 12 digit display Stores up to 16 messages Auto backlighting Vibrate/bleep alert Model INSTINCT PLUS GREEN Nas £39.99 LOTTERY RESULTS SAVE MINICOLL MOTOROLA **BT EASYREACH TEXT PAGER** One line,

scrolling, backlit

display

Stores up to

vibrate or 4 musical aterts

Model: CELLO WHE E89.99

15 messages

Choice of bleep,

5

DENTIST AT MAN Callers can hear your personalised greeting

PHILIPS BT EASYREACH **TEXT PAGER** 20 message PHILIPS memoryChoice of bleep, vibrate H'S A' BOY or 5 musical alerts BT EasyReach lodet ALPHA Nas E7999 £20 PREMIER LEAGUE £59.99

MOTOROLA PAGEONE MINICALL PAGER 2 line, 40 character display

Stores up to 20 messages SCRIPT EXPRESS

£20







NASTERCARE COVERPLAN neads of mind for up to 5 years.



124 STORES NATIONWIDE FREEPHONE 0500 222 666

For your nearest store



The Link

Jail warning in Lawrence murder inquiry

for the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence face jail if they refuse to give evidence at a public inquiry into his death, the investigation's chairman warned yesterday. Three men were formally cleared of the murder in 1993

of 18-year-old Stephen (pic-London, while the case against two others never came to trial. All five refused to answer questions at last year's inquest. Sir William Macpherson of

Cluny, who is chairing the public inquiry, said: "My intection is that they will be called before the inquiry. If they refuse they are liable to be prosecuted for failure to give evidence before

the court. In my view [that inchides] both failure to attend or next Monday. failure to give evidence."

Bailey in 1996 - Neil Acourt, Zarof the inquiry was not to discover Gary Dobson, also 22, and Luke who killed Stephen Lawrence, Knight, 20—cannot be tried for. but to look at flaws in the pothe murder again. The two lice investigation. "This is not a whose cases never came to a full trial - David Norris, 21, and Jamie Acourt, 21 - could still face fresh criminal proceedings. All five, however, could face a civil claim for damages from the Lawrence family.

Sir William said the men bad been offered a solicitor and had been asked to make statements "as to whether they will give evidence and what they will say". But they had given no indication of whether they would at-

tend the inquiry, which starts

Sir William, a former high The three cleared at the Old court judge, said the main aim trial, it is not an investigation to discover who committed the into the policing and all that took

place after the murder." It would not be a failure if at the end of the inquiry he was unable to name Stephen's killers. But he added: "If the evidence emerges that enables me to say oo the balance of probabilities, or to be sure, that I know who killed Stephen Lawrence, then I shall say so.'



Why pay more?



Annual Fee!

rates of 20% or more on your credit cards when you could pay the UK's lowest rate - 6.9% APR FIXED - with a Capital One VISA card? And there's No

Just transfer your balance from your high interest cards to our low 6.9% APR Capital One VISA card and you could SAVE up to £266 in your first year*. And after January 1999 you'll only pay the low rate of 17.9% APR variable.

The Capital One VISA card is accepted wherever you see the VISA sign, and you don't need to bank with us. Capital One is one of the oldest established credit card businesses in the world with over 10 million customers world-wide.

So why not start saving money today? Just give us a call now on <u>0800 66 9000</u> FREE to apply for your 6.9% APR FIXED Capital One VISA card or request a FREE information pack.



CALL FREE 0800 66 9000

AND QUOTE 1474-131 TO APPLY OR REQUEST

Capital One

solution



NTHELA

more!

Immigrants face cameras at airports

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

CLOSED-CIRCUIT television cameras are to be installed for the first time at major airports including

Heathrow as a security check on immigrants, The move is likely to be challenged by civil rights groups who are already concerned about the invasioo of privacy through CCTV in towns and cities, but the move by the Home Office is supported by one

leading migraots' group.
The Home Office yesterday confirmed that it would be authorising the use of CCTV surveillance at the entry gates at Heathrow and other international airports to film all

passengers as they leave the aircraft. Most of the public areas of airports are already covered by CCTV, including the perimeters, to maintain surveillance against terrorists, but it will be the first time that the cameras have been installed oo the airside of airports, where tight security is already maintained.

Immigration officers and Customs & Excise officials believe the use of cameras could combat attempts at illegal entry by passengers, or evasion by smugglers who wait in the arrival lounges until airports become crowded before trying to eoter using forged documents or with drugs.

The move was welcomed by Tara Mukherjee, president of the Confederation of Indian Organisations, which has been campaigning for some years for the introduction of CCTV at major ports of entry to protect legal migrants from unnecessary checks. Confirmation that the cameras will be installed was given to Mr Mukheriee at a meeting yesterday at the Home Office with Mike O'Brien, the minister for immigration...

It follows a trial of strategically placed CCTV cameras at Heathrow which Mr O'Brien said could "perform a valuable security role, in some areas of British airports. Mr. O'Brien also said that a fast-track appeal system would be introduced for migrants who are refused vises for cotering Britain; it will enable the appeals to be heard before they reach this country.

The Home Office also agreed to

a feasibility study into the recording of interviews between immigration officers and asylum seekets.

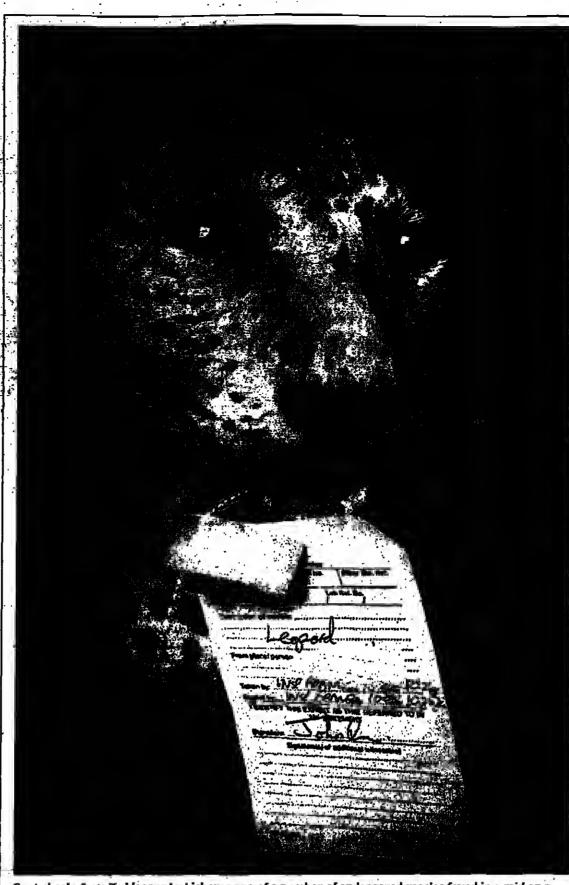
The wider use of CCFV at amports was supported by James Clappison, a Tory spokesman on home affairs. The introduction of cameras at points of entry could open the way to the toutine use of CCTV elsewhere through immigration areas, including at interviews with immigration of-. ficers at passport checks, as a further check on the rights of migrants.

Mr Mukherjee said: "This is the first government I have known in 30 years dealing with ministers to have a positive approach to the issue of immigration. We welcome the introduction of CCTV because we want justice to be seen to be done. Already there are CCTV cameras in supermarkets, and in the high street. It should oot be seen as an invasion of privacy. We hope it will protect migrants from unnecessary checks

The migrants' leaders believe that the system will help immigration officers identify the flights from which migrants arrive, reducing the pressure for more comprehensive random checks on migrants.

The Confederation of Indian

Organisations said in a letter to the Home Office that CCTV at the passport control areas and the taperecording of interviews should be a rootine procedure. "We are oot im-pressed at the possible objections ... This is a grey area which is contentious and efforts should be made to ensure that interrogations are not only fair but seen to be fair."



Spot check A stuffed leopard which was one of a number of endangered species found in a raid on a taxidermy shop in north London by the wildlife unit of the Metropolitan police Photograph: Geoff Caddick

Train driver cleared of manslaughter in fatal crash

THE DRIVER of a commuter ed in disaster. After today's vertrain involved in a crash that killed one passenger was yesterday found not guilty of manslaughter.

A jury at Lutoo Crown Court took two hours to acquit Peter Afford, of Bushey, Hertfordshire. Relatives and supporters of the 57-year-old former driver cheered and clapped when the unanimous verdict was returned.

The 1704 Euston to Milton Keynes service ended in tragedy last August when it overran a red light and ploughed into an empty train which was crossing its path at Watford, Hertford-

The crash killed Ruth Holland, 54, a journalist from Apsley, Hertfordshire, and injured 70 other passengers. Both sides in the case ad-

mitted that Mr Afford, who had 34 years experience driving trains, fell foul of a signalling system on the approach to a points junction just south of Watford Junction statioo.

Mr Afford told the court he did oot remember seeing two amber signals further up the track which would have warned him of the approaching red

When he finally saw the stop signal he immediately slammed on the brakes, but by then it was too late to stop his four-coach train in time.

The prosecution had alleged that the driver deliberately jumped the amber lights because he was under pressure to reach Watford Junction oo

The defence highlighted deficiencies in the track and sigoalling system which meant that a minor driver error enddict the widower of Ms Holland, Mr Derek Snook, said he was

mystified by the jury's decision. Standing alongside his 15year-old soo Harry, Mr Snook, 70. said: "I realise they took their decision very quickly and felt obviously it was right.

"But I strongly suspect that the verdict would have been entirely different if the railway management had been in the dock with the driver."

He added: "The best thing that can come out of this is to make it a more remote possibility of any subsequent accident on that bit of line."

Mr Soook, who lives in Ap-sley in Hertfordshire, spoke only briefly about how his family has been affected by the loss

He said: "We are obviously devastated at the loss of a beloved wife and mother."

One of the passengers who had travelled on the train, Mrs Sandra Steele, 36, from King's Langley, said she felt sympathy for the driver.

Speaking before the verdict, she said: "I'm oot surprised by what I've heard in court about the state of the track and signals,"

A solicitor representing 30 other passengers welcomed the

Nick Mercer said: "In court we heard he was only going one mile per hour too fast to stop the train in time. How many of us travel ooe mile an hour too

"The safety net oo that piece of track was inadequate and we look forward to the report by the Health & Safety Executive to tell our clients exactly what did happen."



At last, a better savings rate for your business.

At Standard Life Bank we believe businesses should receive an excellent rate of interest for their savings. Our new Direct Access Savings Account for businesses offers limited companies, sole traders, partnerships, clubs, associations, charities and pension fund trustees a new way to maximise on their savings.

It's simple. An easy to operate account working alongside your current business account and offering you:

- consistently competitive rates of interest
- convenience of a telephone based operation
- no minimum deposit
- · no day to day charges
- no notice of withdrawal required
- no limit on the number of withdrawals no penalties.

High interest means better business.

Our Direct Access Savings Account for businesses makes a great deal of sense. Your business can enjoy high rates of interest from as little as a pound on deposit. Interest can be paid monthly or annually - whatever suits your business needs best.

Simple to arrange.

Opening a Direct Access Savings

Account for your business couldn't be simpler; you can talk to your financial adviser who can contact us on your behalf or call us direct - it only takes a few minutes.



Beckett blow for union hopes of recognition

Political Editor

MINISTERS have decided to reject a TUC demand for trade union recognition on the basis of a simple majority of those voting in workplace ballots.

An explosion of union anger will be provoked by the decision when it is revealed in a "Fairness at Work" White Paper policy statement, due to be published in May. But Margaret Beckett, President of

the Board of Trade, says in an interview for today's New Statesman that both the CBI and the TUC have "legitimate points of view" on the matter.

While the TUC wants a straight majority of those voting, the CBI is demanding a much tougher threshold for union recognition - a majority of those eligible to vote. It is also calling for exemption for companies with fewer than 50 employees. Mrs Beckett says in today's interview:

framework which is practical in solving disputes in those small number of cases when they arise. While the TUC wants any legislation to contain hard-and fast rules, the Govern-

"Our task is to construct a legislative

ment will instead offer conciliation procedures to resolve disputes. A measure of the union response to that compromise was provided in another New

Statesman interview, last month, when Bill Morris, geoeral secretary of the transport workers' union, threatened strikes in support of recognition, if the unions did not get their way. "This is a defining issue for trade unionists," he said. "There is simply no room, for compromise. The Government will not be able to fulfil its commitment to fairness at work by legislating for bad employers, which is what a compromise would mean. It's a straightforward choice: either the Government supports the CBI position, or the TUC position."

On the basis of what Mrs Beckett is now saying, Mr Morris is going to he disappointed. But ministers are determined to crack the traditional "them-and-us" divide. Employers and unions will be encouraged to work out solutions to their differences, and if they fail, they could be required to go through a conciliation body that would be there the resolve intractable disputes.

On the other controversial issue she is currently dealing with, Mrs Beckett again reflected the Government's search for a working partnership, saying: "The caricature of business hating the minimum wage was never entirely true, and the unions have taken the view for a long time that it's the principle that matters most. Surveys suggest a lot of wage settlements are already being biased towards the lower-paid. It's happening without a noticeable impact on differentials."



Act of defiance: The Earl of Shannon puffing away at the Cigar and Pipe Club of the Houses of Commons and Photograph: Nicola Kurtz Lords at Westminster yesterday, which was national No Smoking Day

merbs make Call for Irvine's job to go

TONY BLAIR yesterday slapped down a Labour backbench call for Lord Irvine of Lairg's post of Lord Chancellor to be abolished, and replaced by a Commons-based Secretary of State for Justice.

A Commons motion, sponsored by Robert Marshall-Andrews QC, and signed by 50 Labour MPs, prempted a Commons question to the Prime Minister during question time yesterday, when David Amess. Conservative MP for Southend West, said the MPs had lost confidence in Lord

He said the MPs were not only demanding an end to Lord Irvine's entravagance - spending £650,000 refurbishing his Lords apartments - but they wanted his job to be abolished, too.

The Prime Minister said there was no question of that. "No, I won't do that," he said, "because the manifesto commitment of the Labour Party in respect of reform both of criminal justice and legal aid is clear, and we are carrying them out under the ex-cellent services of the Lord Chancellor."

Mr Marshall-Andrews, MP for Medway, said the motion was in no sense an attack of Lord Irvine, but rather an expression of concern over his constitutional role,

He said there was "a sense of onease that this is a very powerful public figure who is not elected. One can very quickly remedy that as part of the reform. It is, frankly, an anachronistic post".

Blair in peace talks plea to Sinn Fein

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

THE RETURN of Sinn Fein to the cross-party talks on Ulster return after today's talks. offers "the best prospect for peace" in Ireland, Tony Blair will tell Gerry Adams today when the two meo meet at 10 Downing Street.

following the three-week suspension imposed for a recent surge in IRA violence, but representatives are seeking to lay down demands for progress in the negotiations, including a long-term call for the release of prisoners, including Roisin McAliskey, whose extradition to Germany was halted carlier this week on health grounds.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "[Mr Blair's message will be the same as it has been throughout - that we have got the best prospect for peace, and that it is worth taking risks for peace." Mr Blair will emphasise that

the talks process now has to be accelerated to enable Dublin and London to meet their target of a referendom on both sides of the border in May.

Sinn Fein's absence from the negotiating table would, how-

and Downing Street officials were holding out strong hopes that Sinn Fein president Mr Adams and his colleagues will

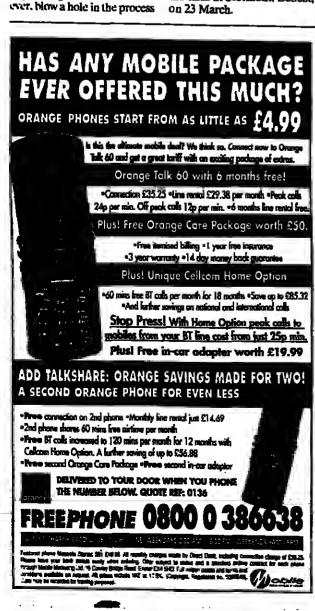
The officials said Mr Adams may have warned Dublin against dropping its historic claim to the north, as part of the peace package, but they point-Sinn Fein could have re- ed out that other remarks were joined the talks last Mooday, more helpful. These include the negotiations cannot deliver a united Ireland at this stage.

John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, last night reinforced the pressure for Sinn Fein to return after meeting Mr Blair at Downing Street. Mr Hume said the talks were entering a "crucial" phase.

"We want to see them where the rest of us are - all round the table," Mr Hume said. "We hope they will come back to the table very soon and get down with the rest of us in this very crucial period on the road to an

Sinn Fein leaders have said they will only decide whether to rejoin the peace process once they have had a faceto-face meeting with the Prime Minister, hot it is widely expected that they will be back at the talks at Stormont, Belfast,





Call for Serbs make truth first casualty of war lrvine's job to go Tr Is the kind of infuriating line that Serbian officials took during the war

killed all these people?" some jour-nalists asked a lowly Serb official in Pristina as fresh reports of killings by paramilitary police came in.

"Because they were terrorists," was the mechanical reply.

"Why do you call them terrorists?" "Because they did many bad

"What kind of bad things?"

Funeral for victims

ETHNIC Albanian villagers yesterday exhumed the bodies of around 50 neighbours who had been buried under duress in Prekaz on Tuesday night, then reburied them after a full funeral. They had previously held out for forensic experts to examine the shell-battered, bullet-ridden bodies, but backed down under pressure from Serbian paramilitary

"Please, come back tomorrow and maybe you will have more in-

formation." Once again, Serbs are being accused of massacres, this time in their own Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo, and again they are displaying their uncanny ability to make the outside

world think the worst of them. While the onslaught on Albanian villages has been carried out with ter- cause, we were told by Interior ilies to prevent them running away.



Candles in the wind: Ethnic Albanians staging a silent protest in Pristina yesterday against the violence enveloping Kosovo Photograph: Reuters

rifying efficiency, the propaganda Ministry spokesman Ljubinko Svetis a simple anti-terrorist operation has

been almost comical in its ineptitude. Why has the Red Cross been denied access to the combat areas? Be-

effort to convince the world that this ic, international aid organisations the Serbs themselves about Kosovo Ministry portrayed as unfeeling, dishave been caught smuggling weapons in the past. Why were there so many threatening to declare war: But for dead women and children? Because, the terrorists had shot their own fam-

The message being delivered to routine, with the Belgrade Interior is straightforward - armed terrorists tant bureaucrats who do not understand our oeeds and the local the foreign media the approach is sub-information office casting itself as the tler. For the past week we have been honest broker that fights our corner treated to a classic good cop-bad cop and wrests the odd concession.

The Pristina Secretary of Information, Bosko Drobnjak, is a man hlessed with the ability of knowing what his interlocutors want to hear and then doing his best to give it to them. He told British and French journalists that Kosovo could become autonomous as long as the Albanians dropped their demands for independence. On Russian television. though, he warned that any Albanian who chose to stay in the besieged villages would aotomatically be considered a terrorist by association.

The Serb authorities all play such games. One day the police might open up roads and allow photographers to take pictures of dead bodies, but at the same time they turn back food and medical supplies and prevent doctors treated the wounded. "They are playing games with human lives and international law. This is pure Machiavellian control," said Francois Fille of the Médecins sans Frontières charity.

When the police completed their onslaught on Prekaz, the village at the centre of the recent offensive, we were invited on an official tour to reassure us that the Serbs had nothing to hide. Our guides insisted the holes in the roofs of the houses - almost certainly caused by mortars - were made by grenades that the "terrorists" left behind. We were driven to a bunker that was said to be the terrorist command base. It was tiny, and looked as if it could have been there, used or unused, for decades.

The Albanian community criticised journalists for taking the tour, but the trip ended up condemning the Serbs far more than it exonerated them.

were carried out. Mootand's

family, anxious to have the af-

cremated. The extent of Mon-

tand's estate ha. .. peen made

Cook meets top dissident

Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, met the Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng, the first meeting since the EU, under Britain's presidency, decided not to raise Chinese human rights at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geoeva next week. The Foreign Office said Mr Cook would make concerns "known publicly and privately" to China. A photocall with Mr Cook was cancelled at the last moment yesterday: officials said its was because Mr Wei, who was expelled to the US last year, arrived earlier than expected, and left the Foreign Office before photographers arrived. - Steve Crawshaw

Death pilots 'at fault'

A US military inquiry has concluded that Marine pilots were at fault in the cable-car accident that killed 20 people in Italy last month, and recommends action which could include court-martial. But the report falls short of agreeing the pilots should stand trial in Italy, as the Italians demanded. The jet sliced wires near the ski resort of Cavalese, bringing a cable-car crashing to the ground. To cut the wires, the plane had to be flying lower than 500 feet, well below the minimum regulation altitude. - Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Pinochet is senator

Chile's former dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, became a senator for life yesterday. In the Seoate he sat, arms crossed and smiling as MPs from the ruling coalitioo held pictures of dissidents killed noder his rule. Several photographs had cap-tions reading "Where are they?", referring to 1,100 people who disappeared after being arrested. Gen Pinochet was sworn in quickly along with another 19 senators elected in last December's election. - AP, Valparaiso

Montand dug up for DNA

By John Lichfield in Paris

The body of the actor Yves Montand was exhumed yesterday to settle a paternity dispute seven years after his death. Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris was cleared of visitors and sensation-seekers while his body was removed from the grave he shares with Simone Signoret.

Last November a court ordered DNA tests on his remains as the only method of settling a legal battle over his estate. this is believed to be the first



Yves Montand: DNA tests

and may be the last. A French MP, outraged by the case, bas presented a draft law outlawing posthumous DNA tests.

Amore Drossart, 22, daughcourt said it was impossible to say for sure unless DNA tests ter of an actress who had a relationship with Montand, has beeo seeking to prove his paternity since 1989. Montand, best-known in later years for his portrayal of the dastardly farmer in Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources, refused to take a DNA test before his death in 1991. Three years later a court decided Ms Drossart WAS his daughter, based on to penalise legacy-seekers anecdotal evidence and resemblance between the two. This

was challenged by Montand's

fair settled, did not object. Michel Hunault, author of the proposed law banning posthumous DNA tests, yesterday said it was important that an individual's body and his wishes be respected after his death. Also, it would be unfair whose alleged fathers had been

two acknowledged children. In public but he wared properties

November last year another in Paris at d the provinces.

Identical twins run opposing campaigns

FRENCH voters are forever saying that all politicians look the same. And in the canton of Beaufort, in the Jura in eastern France, there is oo arguing with them, writes John

Lichfield The candidate of the centreright in the local elections this Sunday is Christian Buchot, 42. The candidate of the Socialists and Greens is Claude Buchot, 42. The two are not only brothers but identical twins, so like that even Claude's wife has difficulty telling them apart.

When it comes to politics, the twins are the best of coemies. Christian, already mayor of a small town of Maynal in the canton, follows the family preference for the Gaullists. Claude, a wine grower, became a socialist and then a green. There are seven other candidates but it is thought possible that the two brothers will top the poll and go into the run-off for a seat on the council for the département the following Sunday.

On the key local issue whether or not an industrial incinerator should be extended the two brothers take divergent views. Christian says that a higger incinerator would create more jobs. Claude agrees, but says that the new building should be moved further from the village. He has proposed a "charter for the protection of the local heritage and environment". Christian's posters show him

full face; Claude's, to be different, show him in profile. On Saturday, the day before

the poll, the two brothers will have hinch at their parents' house, as they have had every Saturday for the last 10 years. And which way will their parents vote on Sunday? There is no question that they will vote for the Gaullist candidate, Christian. Claude admits that he is the black - or rather the red and green - sheep of the family.

Reward yourself

gross rate per annum'

Reward Reserve

Reward Reserve, our instant access savings account, not only offers you an attractive rate of interest but could also give you extrarewards. You can now earn interest of up to 6.35% gross p.a.*

That's because we top up the basic rate with quarterly interest rate rewords, providing you've made no more than one withdrawal each quarter. And, if you make no more than three withdrawals in a year,

we'll go a step further and add an extraannual interest reward.

You can open a Reward Reserve account with a minimum deposit of £2,000. To find out more, call us on the number below or pop into any NatWest branch.

Isn't it time to reward yourself?

Call 0800 200 400 MON TO FRI 8.00am TO 8.00pm SAT 9.00am TO 6.00pm

NatWest Mare than just a bank

The grass rate includes quarterly interest rewards of 1,5% grass per annum and on annual interest reward of 0,5% grass per annum on belonces of £10,000+. A belonce of £2,000 - £9,999 will earn interest of 5,10% grass per annum including quarterly and annual interest rewards. Credit interest and quarterly reward interest is poid quarterly and annual reward interest is poid particular. All rotas are subject to variation. Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from the interest pold (which may be reclaimed by resident non-tongers). Otherwise, (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be pold grass. The grass rate is the rate before deducting income tax. We may monitor and record your phone calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service. National Westerlater Back Pic, Registered Office; 41 Lathbury, London EC2P 28P. Registered Number: 929027. England. Ref No. 17292

PRINTERS SAVE#230 Canon HEWLETT PACKARD DI720C COLOUR SMILET Canon BJC4300 COLOUR BURBLEIET PRINTER EPSON STYLUS 800 COLOUR MILLET PRINTER PLUSTEK HEWLETT PACKARD SHOET FIED SCAN = £99. SAVE 5.40 MODEMS PHONIC Set EXTERNAL PROPERTY WITH VOICE FACILITY Capable of data transfer up to 50 Was £149.90 £29.90. SAVE £40 (A) MOTOROLA £30 HAYES ACCURA SOL M Capable of ceta Was £394.99. SAVE £20 £119.99 £99.55 SAVE # £20 **DRIVES** IOMEGA ZP DRIVE AND 3-PACK ZP DISKS Fest high capacity extern data storage device. Total Separate Sellon Proc 17998. IOMEGA NEW SAVE £10 Spling Price £159.96 LG ELECTRONICS 20.00m ±30.00 GAMEPLAY TORNADO
LOGIC 3
PC JOYSTICK
Auto fre option.
West \$250. SAVE £2 POWER PAD INTERACT PC GAME MD SAVE £5 £19.99 £49.55 New Technology HEWLETT PACKARD O/635 ALL-IN-ONE FAX, COLOUR PRINTER, COLOUR SCANNER AND COLOUR COPIER Dixons Deal Microsoft Feel every move with the ultimate Dixons Deal in gamepiny action and control with compatible games. Comes complete with CD-ROM containing 2 great There's a Great Deal going on

Calls cost 50p per unhole at all times.

America gets tanked up courtesy of El Nino

By David Usborne in New York

You have to ponder what would happen if cars could run on cappuccino or, for that matter, bottled water. What a catastrophe. Americans, at least, would be begging for a return to smelly old petrol (or gas, as they call it here).

gentler on the wallet on this side of Atlantic, largely because American gasoline taxes are so much lower than their equivalent petrol taxes in Britain. Americans guzzle gas because

Never, however, as cheap as it is now. Thanks to a combination of factors, including the ago.

Tanking up has always been effects of El Niño, petrol in some corners of the United States is now selling at 80c a gallon or less.

> That is about 50p. If inflation is taken into account, the average price for a gallon of petrol in the United States is now at the lowest level since records were first kept, about 40 years correspondent, if he looks hard

er had it so good. The decline paying \$2.79 every morning for gallon petrol everywhere in the garages is important, the since September qualifies as a price crash," says Trilby Lundberg, publisher of the Lundberg Survey of petrol stations na-

tionwide. "It's just wild". To understand quite how wild, consider this: while this enough, can find petrol at less those in Britain:

American drivers have nev- than a dollar a gallon, he is also a small-size cappuccino at his local mid-town Manhattan

A bottle of mineral water is just under \$2. On the other hand, you might just compare the pump prices here in America with

You cannot find 80-ceot-a-US, however, because the tax levels vary between the states. posting 75 cents in Georgia, in oumerous events. Connecticut a gallon of regular is still around \$1.30. On aver-

have dropped by around 15 per

While competition between underlying cause is a glut of crude oil oo the world market, While garages have been seen which in turn is the result of

Among those have been production levels set by Opcc age, prices across the country that have simply overtakeo demand. The drop in demand, meanwhile, can be traced to to

different sources, including exnomic turmoil in South East man face in scing time still to the still to

Then there is the effect of El Niño, which has blessed North America with an unusual winter: tempestuous and wet for many, but also exceptionally warm. Heating-oil demand has dropped further, contributing to

Clinton makes sure Buddy's sex life is beyond reproach

By Fiona Bell

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has decided to have his pet dog. Buddy, custrated. The First Puppy's private parts - and whether he would keep his rethe subject of debate since last December when he moved used to frolic on a leash emblazoned "I'm the one in charge" and his master seemed loathe to meddle in Buddy's procreative future.

But Mr Clinton has been encouraged by animal-welfare experts, including the Doris Day Animal League (launched by the actress), to have the six- sex-life have led the national month-old chocolate-coloured labrador castrated and "make about his affair with Monica a statement" for responsible pet ownership.

A White House spokesman, travelling with Mr Clinton to Cincinnati yesterday, confirmed that he had been urged to neuter Buddy "for the purposes of both the health of the dog and the issue of overpopulation of dogs". He denied that the puppy's behaviour said that castratioo was a had anything to do with the decision. "The president believes Buddy behaves just fine," Barry Toiv told reporters.

The news that Buddy would lose his reproductive powers was first mentioned by White House doctor Connie Mariano to Doris Day last week in a letter to let her know that the President was taking her advice productive powers - have been and scheduling surgery for the puppy. But no date has yet been set; "Is nothing private into the White House. He anymore?" a White House

> Maybe it is just a case of the White House trying to stop leaks - intact dogs tend to mark their territory more than neutered ones, canine experts say. But the late-night talkshow hosts - whose barely printable jokes about the President's debate ever since allegations Lewinsky first broke -- are expected to have a field-day with

One television reporter announced that Buddy would from oow on be free of the urges "that led certain twolegged creatures astray in political Washington", while an animal-behaviour consultant useful treatment for hypersexuality, and would help prevent a dog mounting guests' legs.



Family trust: Bill Clinton carrying Buddy as he leads the way down the steps of the presidential aircraft, followed by Hillary and their daughter, Chelsea. The White House says Buddy will be castrated to make a statement for responsible pet ownership

Lloyd **Bridges** dies at 85

the glut in crude.

LLOYD BRIDGES, patriarch of a formidable acting dynasty, whose ca-reer spanned films and television from High Noon to Airplane, died aged 85 in his Los Angeles home, writes Tim Cornwell in Los Angeles.

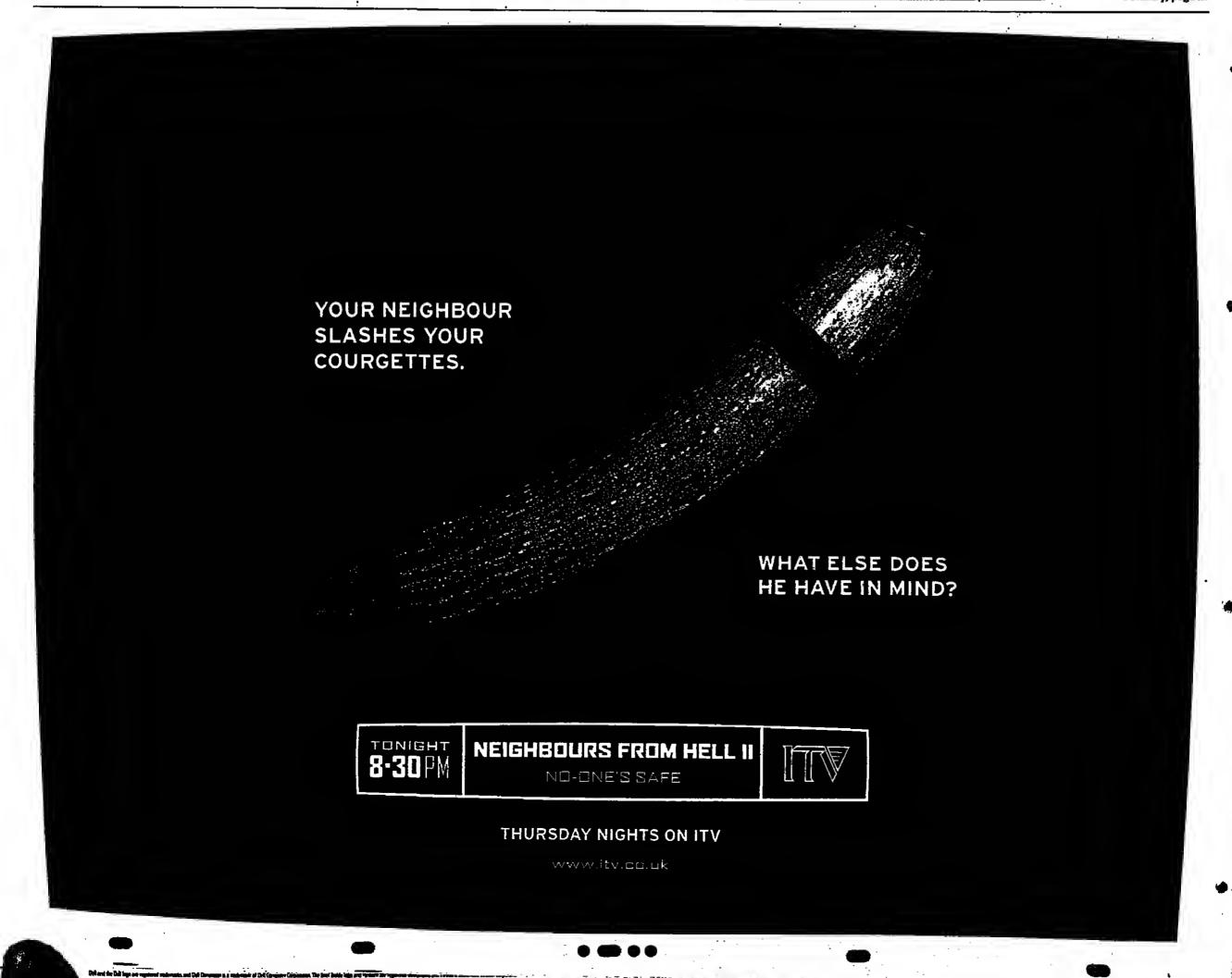
The father of Beau and Jeff Bridges, both major acting names in their own right, Bridges' amazingly resilient acting career survived his being blacklisted in the McCarthy era and lasted well into his eighties.

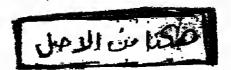
The actor died of natural causes with his wife of 50 years, Dorotby, at his side, along with Beau and daughter Cindy. The couple lived in Westwood, near the University of California campus where they met as drama students. "We all feel really blessed to have been with my dad for these 85 years," Beau said.

Born Lloyd Vernet Bridges near San Francisco in 1913, Bridges fell in love with the films he watched of his father's theatre. He went to university as a law student, but became president of the drama society.

From the Broadway stage, he landed his first film role in 1941 and went oo to appear in more than 100 movies. But he became a household name in America with the television series Sea Hunt, which began in 1957, playing underwater investigator Mike Nelson. He had never tried scaba diving until he got the part, but he used the series to introduce his sons to the camera.

Obituary, page 21





Lloyd Bridges

Nin. Annan faces testing time on visit to Washington

By David Usborne n New York

WITH the stakes as high as they are ever likely to be both for him personally and for the organisation that he heads, the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, hegan a testing two-day visit to Washington yesterday.

Ushered in for talks with President Clinton and the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, Mr Annan might have expected to have been met with back-slapping and glory. It has, after all, only been two weeks since he did his deal with Saddam Hussein that brought America hack from the brink of war.

His relations with Washington, however, are altogether more complicated and tense. He was not scheduled to brave Capitol Hill at all this time and for a good reason - his friends in Congress are few and em-

Mr Annan, who will shortly also visit London, has two principal issues to discuss in Washington - they are the Iraqi deal and American dues to the UN. Unhappily for him, the two have become inextricably linked.

Getting money out of the US has been hard enough anyway. The Saddam deal is likely to make extracting the US dollars more difficult still. Republican members of Congress especially have accused Mr Annan of giving Saddam special treatment and stopped barely short of labelling provisions of the Saddam deal, is un-

him an appeaser. Most diplomats in New York concede that renewed antagonism toward the UN is unlikely to help efforts this year to persuade Congress to release at least some of the nan going soft on Iraq. roughly \$1.6bn now owed by Wash-

ington to the UN. "There is general apprehension that this is not going to help," remarked one.

Nor will it ease negotiations in New York on reducing America's share of the UN budget from 25 per cent to 22 per cent, which Congress has set as a condition for paying up. There had been hopes that this would have been settled last year. Getting it done this year now seems most unlikely.

Arriving in Washington, the Secretary General insisted that as regards Congress's other main condition - that the UN reform itself - much progress had been made. We have delivered and I want to know when they will deliver", he said.

Wisely or otherwise, Mr Annan previewed his trip with a sharply worded comment piece in Monday's New York Times. "Our doors are kept open only because other countries in essence provide interest-free loans to cover largely American-created shortfalls". Such countries, he went on, include Fiji.

The greatest disaster that could befall Mr Annan, of course, would be the collapse of the Saddam deal. So far, the signs seem good, though sceptics wonder how long it will last. The first visits to presidential sites by weapons inspectors, accompanied by diplomats, should happen within two weeks.

But even the US administration, which has come to terms with the certain about the other steps being taken by the Secretary General to open up communications between himself and the Iraqi leadership. Steps that to some looking like An-

Mr Annan this week appointed



A young boy venting his anger as his baby brother's funeral cortage passed the United Nations HQ in Baghdad yesterday. Forty funerals were being held for victims of 'lack of medicines' Photograph: AFP

an Indian diplomat, Prakash Shah, to be his special representative in Baghdad. He has also passed onto the Security Council a request from Moscow that a Russian be appointed as co-deputy of Unscom, the commission that runs the inspections. Washington is appalled.

These are suspicions, meanwhile, that should be viewed against a background of rapidly shifting sentiments with the UN Security Council. The Washington view, largely shared by London, that Saddam be given no leeway whatsoever until post-Gulf War resolutions are honoured, has in recent months

been eroded by the less stringent positions of Russia, China and France. Sources close to the Secretary General say he is sensitive to the shift

and that he does not himself believe Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

And the state of the state of the

that the sanctions regime can go on ad infinitum.

Even so, you could forgive Mr Annan for feeling unloved by Washington. He got Mr Clinton out of a bind on Iraq at least in the short term. And it was the Americans, after all, who pushed so hard to have him at the head of the UN instead of the predecessor they truly did not trust,

India's future may hang on whim of a screen goddess

India's national politics is not dead. If you take the gravely magnificent Sikh who heads the Election Commission, Dr MS Gill, at his word, it has never been in better shape. But regional politics, like a horde of maggots, is eating it alive.

Dr Gill and his two fellow comnissioners have the job of ensuring India's election runs as smoothly as possible. They stagger polling dates to ensure enough troops in areas of insurgency, reschedule polling in constituencies where rigging has been outrageous, and count the dead, 1998, Dr Gill announced, had been the best Indian election ever. "We are very much satisfied with the manner in which the general elections were conducted," he said on Tuesday, handing formal notification of the results to the President. The turn-out was the highest yet, at 62 per cent; 65 people were killed countrywide, compared to 213 in 1996.

The only thing wrong with the election was the result - or lack of one. Atal Behari Vajpayee, parliamentary leader of the Hindu Nationalist BJP, went to see the President on Tuesday. He congratulated Mr Vajpayee on winning the largest number of seats, though he did not ask him to form the new government, hut to produce letters of support from his allies proving he had the wherewithal to do so.

Yesterday at 5pm Mr Vajpayee was supposed to hand over the letters. But there was a hitch. The letter from the BJP's most important, and awkward, ally in the south bad yet to arrive. Before the first budget, or confidence vote, even before the formal invitation to govern, Jayalalitha, the ageing icon of south In-

dian cinema, was putting the boot in. Commentators have remarked on the number of extraordinary women playing important roles in the election. At least three have emerged with their power greatly enhanced. In the Congress Party, Sonia Gand-

A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

hi now stands on the brink of leadership. And two others will be crucial props to Mr Vajpayee's new

With her immaculate appearance, hauteur, precisely enunciated English and crowds of hysterical fans. Javalalitha is a frightening mixture of Imelda Marcos and Evita Peron. She became one of the biggest stars of Tamil cinema, making 115 films. Then she switched to politics and brought her fans with her.

They retained the fans' mind-set, prostrating themselves at her feet, walking on fire to prove their devotion, coining ever more syrupy titles for her - Walking Goddess, Goddess of the Heart.

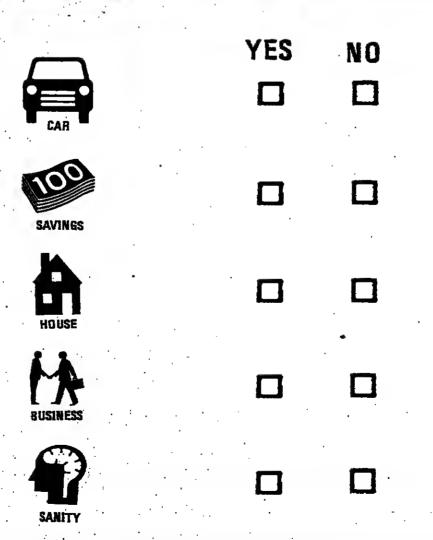
She became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1991, and was responsible, it is alleged, for corruption and self-aggrandisement. Beaten in regional election of 1996, she was charged with corruption offences and went to jail. The cases still hang over her, but after a dramatie success in last week's poll, she is bent on revenge. Her promised external support to the BJP government is conditional on their doing two things: dismissing her deadly rival's government in Tamil Nadu and quashing the charges against her. It will be difficult for them to do either.

In West Bengal, Mamata Banneriee is, by contrast, as homely as an onion, but is another fiery populist, Her link to the BJP is recent and tenuous and her only preoccupation is local. She wants the new government to dismiss the Communist administration in her state, which will be almost impossible.

Since the crumbling of Congress, more Indians vote for regional parties that campaign on purely regional issues. With no national body able to command a majority, these have formidable power, that is eating away at India's ability to produce a government. The answer is constitutional change; but that would require a two-thirds majority in Parliament. Mr Vajpayee will he lucky if be can get a majority of one.

A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE

HIRDOGRAMMAN PROPERTY AND A STATE OF THE STA The state of the s SOMEONE KIDNAPS YOUR TEENAGE DAUGHTER WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE TO HAVE HER BACK?



TONIGHT

SEESAW



THURSDAY NIGHTS ON ITV

www.itv.co.uk

When a breach of the peace is the only way to get things done

HE Spanish siesta is sacrosanct, eveo in wioter, so doo't believe those who say it's to do with farmhands resting in the heat of the afternoon. Folk memory records a time a decade or so back when politicians tried uosuccessfully to line up the Spanish day with the rest of Europe, but they gave up.

Never was I so aware of the siesta's iron rule as when I recently took advantage of the peace and quiet to move to a bigger flat. My trusty frieod Maurice helped me load boxes into the van of Norberto, the portero of my old flat.

Timing was crucial. We had to move between 3pm and 5pm when the crush around the market eased off. A parking place was out of the questioo so, as it was siesta time, I cajoled and peeled off banknotes to encourage Juan, the portero of the new flat, to keep a beady eye on Norberto's illegally parked van.

This part of town, the popular bit of the posh end, is slow to get started, but from I lam the bustle and noise mouots to a frenzy betweeo MADRID DIARY



Closed doors. We swing into action.

But there was traffic of a kind. Under Juan's watchful gaze, frail gentlemen with dark glasses and thin grey moustaches tiptoed forth, young girls with waxed jackets tossed their shiny hair, and stocky females sailed by in billowing mink "Oh Juan, you're early this afternoon," one noted acidly, with a glare at the boxes cluttering the hallway. "It's your siesta time!"

At 5pm, we'd oearly finished, fortunately, because the area 2pm and 3pm and theo, silence. suddenly exploded into life. Children of gardeo furniture. Not till the end

the streets, horns blared, people bounded from the bakery stuffing their faces with pastries held in little squares of tissue paper. Dusty now and scruffy, I received filthy looks from showered and cologned citizens dressed to the nines.

There's only one thing people ask about my oew flat. "Has it got a good terrace?" Actually yes. Spacious, split-level, sun canopy, rose trees, evening shade. Next door's telephone conversations Nothing. Deserted pavements. are shrilly audible, the neighbours but a peach of a terrace.

Madrilenos love terraces because they spend so much time out of doors - oot in the sun, you understand, but in the shade. So now Spring is upon us, if only fleetingly, all we want to do is sip a

beer at a pavement café. But, creatures of habit, Madrid café owners don't bring their tables and chairs out for another mooth. There's probably a rule about it. Like the one that governs the sale

erupted from school, traffic jammed of the month, I was told when seeking a table and chairs for my terrace. It'll be raining again by then.

> mong the instructions I received from the outgoing Leoant was the insistent warning to be careful with the gas. Always turn the pilot light off, and the tap to the boiler, she said. Gas explosions account for a scary number of accidents in Spain, mainly because of the widespread use of gas canisters, hauled up ancieot staircases by a mafia of sturdy Poles.

But if Spaniards are respectful could be veterans of Franco's army of gas, they are hair-raisingly casual about electrics.

> The plug for my fridge is connected to a wandering cable that hovers over the gas ring. The terrace is lit by bare bulbs and in my future study, where I plan to entrust my computer and other electronic treasures, the plug vomits from the wall, trailing wires and sticky tape.
> "The electricals look a bit dodgy". I ventured. The response was a blank shrug.

I decided to take immediate ac-



tion, after the siesta or, er, manana. Taking it easy: The Spanish have resisted all efforts to abolish the siesta

puts sure

EU's new recruits move into **Brussels**

AN UNUSUAL new building stands amid the older villas oo Aveoue de Tervuren, in the heart of Brussels's diplomatie quarter. The elegant detailing, the spacious atrium and the commissioned art oo the walls all combine to reinforce the im-

is Poland's new embassy to the eigners out. an Union. The first impressioo is that it is far too grand for a relatively impoverished couotry.

In reality, that inappropriateness is just the point. This building sends a clear message: the unimaginable is on the near horizon. The impossible (getting rid of Communism) was a mere hiccup, completed without difficulty in 1989. The miracle creating a robust ecocomy which can hold its own with western Europe - is taking a little longer.

To emphasise the symbolism, the embassy will open on 31 March - the same day that Poland and a clutch of other east European countries are officially admitted to the European ante-room, with a view to ioining the EU in just a few

years' time. Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia and the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia - all move into the front row, together with Cyprus.

Things are changing, fast. On the one hand, a previously cautious Brussels is giving the goahead for nitty-gritty oegotiations with the five (plus Cyprus). Meanwhile, the east Europeans have begun to face 80,000 pages of the acquis -Euro-speak for the whole shebang, the agreed school rules. As civil servants and ministers . across eastern Europe begin to scrutinise the acquis, paragraph by daunting paragraph, the gushing optimism has given way to a sense of worry. The short-term difficulties are now as obvious as the long-term advantages of EU membership. Wheo a group from Poland's main steel-making and coal-mining region visited Brussels, two questions topped the agenda: How many jobs will go? How painful will it be? Answer, lots, very. Other countries have similar concerns.

Environmental standards cause some of the most difficult hership for the lucky ones; problems, in a region the Com-munist rulers allowed to become "We know we must eat a tough crust," is one typical east problems, in a region the Compolluted on an epic scale. Agriculture, too, is difficult: when senior officials visited Poland

recently they found that the milk (though tasty) was light years away from required standards, though eccouragingly Polish officials admitted as much.

The process of enlargement is riddled with political irooies. Nine years ago, Hungary made history by chopping a hole in the border fence that formed the Iron Curtain, paving the way for

The granite and glass edifice oew obligation to keep for-

Most remarkable of all, the former Soviet republic of Estonia is now about to be part of the west European family ooce

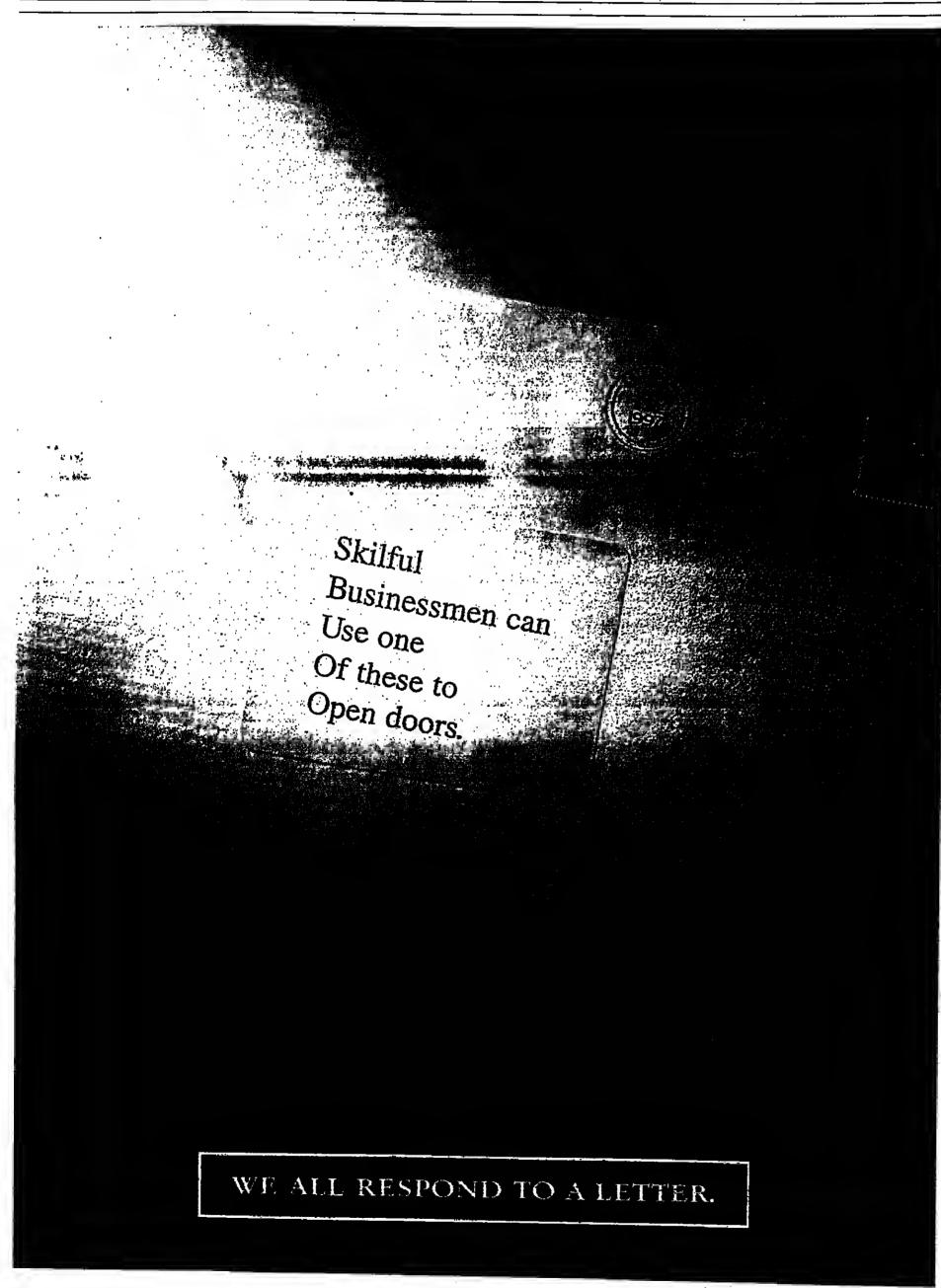
Less than a decade ago its aspirations to independence from the Soviet Union were mocked or coodemned in the West. Now, Estonia is set to be an equal partner with Luxembourg and the Netherlands, in just a few years' time. When the Commission gave little Estonia the thumbs-up, says one diplomat, "people in very senior positions couldn't believe it had hap-

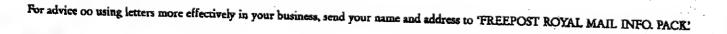
After 40 years of living under Communism we have to make up for lost time

Not everybody is enthusiastic. Traditionally, the British have been supportive of enlargement to the east - not least because it seemed a good way the complications of what EU of diloting the EU itself. The membership will actually mean. French are afraid that the east Each prospective member Europeans will spoil the elegant coootry must comply with European symmetry. Greece, Spain and Portugal fear eolargement will take away funds which by rights they should receive. The Germans are arguing for both an enlarged and a strengthened Unioo though in closed-door sessions, they are uncothusiastic about the prospect of cast European produce swamping the German market.

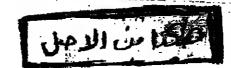
A conference in London today includes the winners and losers alike. Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia (verdict: "oot yet") must grin and bear it, and hope for better luck next time. Then, at the end of this month, comes Winners' Day, the beginning of official negotiations for mem-

European comment. "But, after 40 years of Communism, we have to makeup for lost time."









17/FOREIGN

Suharto's visit puts pressure on Blair

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Yogyakarta

AN OPPOSITION leader in Indonesia has called oo Tony Blair to put pressure oo President Suharto to step down when he visits London next month.

Amien Rais, leader of the Indonesian Muslim organisation, Muhammadiyah, or Followers of Islam, vesterday said that Europe is not doing enough to oppose Suharto, who was sworn in yesterday for his seventh consecutive five-year term.

"I want to see more pressure," he told *The Independent*. There is oo obstacle to the Western governments giving a strong signal to Suharto that ecough is enough. I hope that Mr Blair will do so."

s new

ruits

ve into

issels

In three weeks' time, Mr Blair will host the Indonesian leader and heads of government of other European and Asian countries at the Asia-Europe meeting (Asem) in London. The discussions are certain to be dominated by Asia's economic crisis and by the plight of Iodooesia.

Last week, the foreign office minister Derek Fatchett gave Suharto a letter from Mr Blair urging him to carry out economic reforms agreed between Indonesia and the International Monetary Fuod (IMF) io return for \$43bn (£27bn) of aid. Three days later, President Suharto suggested the programme was unconstitutional. The IMF then suspended the next installment of money until April. Yesterday, the IMF said it was willing to be flexible,

but foreign analysts are increasingly convinced that real reforms will not take place under Presideot Suharto. "Without political reform, the economic reforms will never take place," Mr Rais said. "It is high-time for the Western powers to pinpoint to Suharto what he has to do."

Throughout the Cold War, Western governments tolerated President Suharto's often brutal regime as a bulwark against the spread of Communism. Indonesia was also a valuable purchaser of arms, especially for Britain. The new "ethical foreign policy" promised by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, was welcomed by dissidents and opposition figures in Indooesia. although enthusiasm was dampened by the Government's decision to go ahead with the sale of British Hawk fighter jets to the Indonesian armed forces, and to invite senior Indooesian generals to an arms exhibition.

Mr Rais was speaking at rally of students demonstrating against Suharto's unanimous reelection by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Mr Rais, an ally of the opposition leader, Megawati Sukamoputri, was harred from standing against the President, who has never been opposed during his 32 years in power, despite the

In a speech to the MPR after his swearing-in, President Subarto made only an indirect reference to the crisis which has caused the Indonesian rupiah to lose 70 per cent of its value, adding: "As a nation we must tighten our belts."

worsening economic crisis.



Protest: A crowd of about 1,000 students marching around Gagja Mada University in Yogyarkarta yesterday, calling on Suharto to step down Photograph: Rick Rycroft/AP

Indonesia's students ridicule President

By Richard Lloyd Parry

AN INDONESIAN joke tells of a poor neighbourhood in Jakarta where people are queuing for rice. The queue stretches for miles and, after four hours of standing in line, one man loses his temper. "Enough is enough," he announces. "Ton going to kill Subarto." Four hours later, he returns looking miserable. "Did you kill him?" his friends ask. "I couldn't get oear him," the man says sadly. "There were too many people ahead of me in the queue."

President Suharto isn't known for his sense of humour, but in Yogyakarta there are plenty of people who find him ridiculous. As the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) was cheering his swearing-in speech in the capital, Jakarta, about 10,000 students marched in the campus of Gajah Mada, one of the country's most famous universities. At nine o'clock the chants were seemly enough: Reject Subarto, and lower prices. An hour later, marchers were mispronouncing the President's came as the Indonesian equivalent of Arsehole-harto. By noon, they were shouting "hang the President", and burning him in effigy.

Such stunts are a risky busi-

ness in Indonesia where insulting the President is a crime punishable by imprisonment. In Bandung, in 1990, six students went to jail for shouting down the interior minister.

But the past few months have seen student protests on a new scale. "Students are an objective political power in this country," says the Muslim opposition leader, Amien Rais. "What happened in the Philippines and in Iran has given us inspiration to mobilise People Power."

But the demonstrations are tightly controlled. For all their vehemence, the Gajah Mada students, like their counterparts in Jakarta, march only within their campus grounds. When yesterday's marchers crossed a public road, it was carefully sealed off by student stewards. "Keep in line," they shootest through their megaphooes.

"Watch out for provocateurs."

The fear of violence runs deep in Indonesia – the last time there was a crisis like this, in the mid-Sixties, about half a million people died in anti-Communist purges. It would only take a few trouble-makers to start throwing stones. Student leaders at Jakarta's University of Indonesia (UI) estimate that 500 of their number report to the in-

telligence services. There are rumours that the army has been buying UI blazers to blend in during protests (you can spot the spooks, they say, by their good shoes).

In the Philippines, opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos drew strength from the Catholic Church. Indonesia's Muslims are more divided, though organisations like Amien Rais's Muhammadiyah are attempting to fill the gap. Nurbadi, 24, a student organiser at Gajah Mada, said: "... we are still building the solidarity between religion and students that they had in the Philippines."

Amien Rais, who expects the protests to escalate in two or three months' time, said: "For the time being, we have to play smart, because if we tell the studeots to go down ioto the streets that's a very good reason for the police to lock them up. We have to push bit by bit ... because oobody can guarantee that student demonstrations will always be peaceful and noo-violent. That's why we need to reach out to the

leaders of armed forces."

However large their numbers or keen their wit, the students of Iodonesia are unlikely to achieve much without the help of the men with guns.

Commonwealths join forces

IN A POSSIBLE harbinger of greater cooperation to come, especially in Africa, the Commonwealth and its Freoch-speaking equivalent, La Francophonie, are joining forces for the first time to send a combined team to monitor the forthcoming elections in the Seychelles, writes Rupert Comwell.

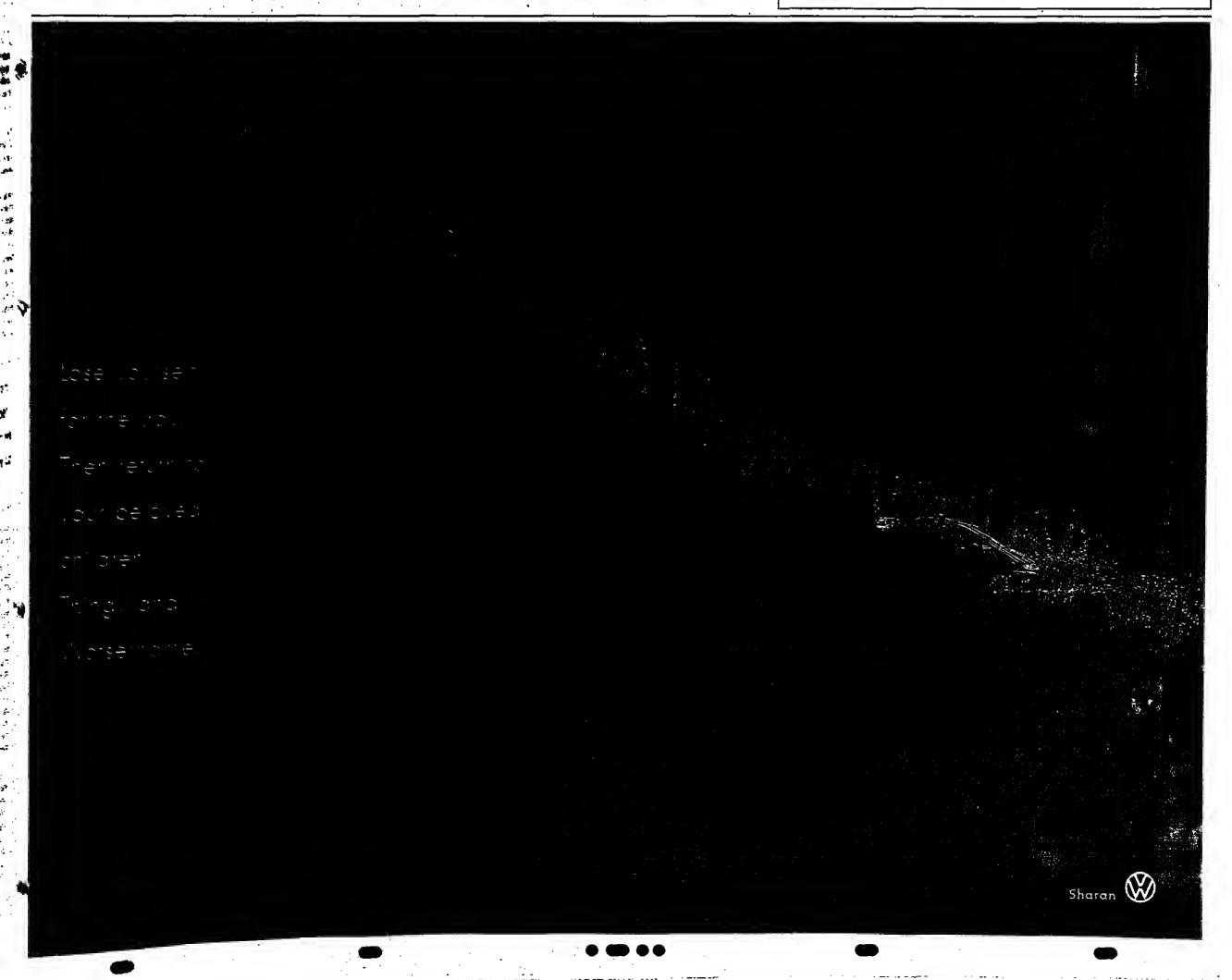
Of itself, this is merely a response to the request from the Seychelles government for both bodies to observe the vote, from 20-22 March. But it reflects realities pushing the two

March. But it reflects realities pushing the two towards co-operation, rather than competition. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, yesterday called the move a

"very significant development", which should

scotch talk that the Commonwealth and La Francophonie were trying to divide Africa into two camps. He denied that there was any institutional rivalry between his 54-nation and the 49member Francophonie. Even so, there is likely to be some concern over the ambitions of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general who was elected as the first head of La Francophonie last November after being forced from his UN job by the United States.

But logic dictates further co-operation. Most members of the two bodies are already linked through the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) group of countries which negotiate with the European Union.



To a company chief, it is a listing to die for: Nigel Cope on the new FTSE 100 and a decade of revolution

Change in great measure

companies yesterday oo the London stock market was typical of the snakes and ladders game that is part and parcel of being City. Up went Compass, the catering company which provides canteeo services to companies and airlines, into the FTSE100 list of Britian's largest companies. Down went Dixons, the electrical retailer. It dropped out yesterday after a stock exchange committee deemed it was no longer big enough to warrant inclusion.

And hovering just on the first rung of the ladder was Misys, a computer software firm providing services to banks and iosurance companies. It was founded only nine years ago, and now lies just outside coming the first informatino technology to join the blue chip list.

much significance beyood the pin-striped environs of the City banking community at first glance hut take a closer look at the shifts in the FTSE 100 - ofteo known as the Footsie - and you see something symptomatic of a wider treod - the shifting pat- the FTSE 100 over the last 10 years tells the

TO THE OUTSIDER, the movement of And a look at the index's changes over the nast 10 years reveals a telling pattern.

The overwhelming trend is a shift towards fast-growing and ofteo youthful sera company whose shares are traded in the vices companies and away from the traditional manufacturing groups which were such powerful stock market performers in the mid-1980s.

As Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, the City bank, points out: "The share of manufacturing of the UK's gross domestic product has been declining for several years and the strong pound will cootinue to squeeze that sector as it is a major exporter. What we have seeo instead is a growth in services. We see that cootinuing too."

But there have been other driving forces. One has been government policy, the Top 100, having just missed out oo be- such as privatisation which catapulted electricity and water companies into the Footsie. Another is the de-mutualisation These changes may not seem to have of many building societies, while a third is management trends which have encouraged many of the hig conglomerates, such as Hansoo and BTR, to break themselves up into smaller, more focused entities.

A glance at the entries and exits from terns in the shape of the British ecocomy. story. New cotrants have included Halifar,



Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, privatised utilities like National Power, Powergen and United Utilities, mobile phone group like Orange, media giants such as British Sky Broadcasting and young pharmaceutical companies such as Nycomed

They have replaced some of the grand old oames of British industry which have either falleo oo tougher times or have deliberately hroken themselves up into smaller groups. Those include Hanson, once the "Big Daddy" of the conglomerate sector run by Lord Hanson, but oow simply a humhle building materials company; Redland, the roofing tile firm recently taken over by French rival Lafarge, Rolls-Royce and TI Group, an engineer.

nies to coocentrate on their core business

and contract out an increasing number of turing base, which has fallen from 23 per services. This has helped providers such as Hays, the distribution and personnel company and Compass.

Dig hack into the 1980s and you find evideoce of Britain's decline in sectors like computer manufacturing; Ferranti International slipped out of the index in 1986 and later weot bust. Amstrad bowed out in 1989 and is now a much smaller consumer electronics group.

According to Bob Semple, at NatWest Securities, the investment bank, the oext 10 years may not seem such dramatic. changes. Further privatisation is unlikely to feature significantly under Labour and the de-mutualisations of the building society movement seems to have reached a The pursuit of "focus" has led compa- pause. But other trends will continue. The cootinued erosion of Britain's manufac-

cent of UK economic output to 21 per cent in the last 10 years, is likely to signal the departure of more industrial groups from the hig league. In their place will come more service companies - maybe a few Internet service providers, or media groups riding on the back of the digital technology rev-

The changes will also have an impact on imployment. Wages growth has been slower in the service sector than in mamufacturing partly due to lower productivity gains but also a higher element of relatively unskilled labour.

As Mr Cole of James Capel says: "Over the next three or four years we should see a continued increase in business, leisure services and financial services but incomes will

index reflects the decline of British manufacturing, and the rise and rise of services

HOW THEY WIN PROMOTION

The FTSE 100 was sec up in 1984 to take over from the FT30, which dated back to 1935. It was established as a way to measure movements in the stock market and to be representative of British industrial and commercial stocks.

Membership of the FTSE100 and the second-line rankings such as the FTSE250 and 350 are made every three months by a committee of fund managers and stock brokers. The key measurement is stock market value. The main yardstick for promotion or relegation to or from the blue-chip index is the so-called "90-100" rule. If a company's value has risen to be ranked 90th or above (ie it is the 90th biggest firm), the share will be in the Top 100. If a company has dropped below 110th, it is excluded. Being in the Top 100 is very important for companies, It bestows and encourages investment This often sends the shares higher.

The New Tudor Chronograph, around £1,000.



Available in a choice of black or steel bezel, with either a black, white, red, green, silver or blue dial with either a leather strap or steel bracelet. Waterproof to fifty metres, scratchproof glass, with a Swiss made, self-winding mechanical movement. A comprehensive range of Tudor models and further information is available from: 5000 AND SERVICE ONLY REPUBLISH



G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S



The first officially appointed Rolex stockists in the UK.

your local jeweller, please call 0800 GOLDSMITHS (0800 465 376).

Why an MP makes the perfect friend (almost)

"SHE JUST adores him," close associate of Peter Ackroyd was quoted as saying this week of Edwina Currie. The eminent biographer and the slightly less eminent author of potboilers such as She's Leaving Home, had, it was said, struck up rather an unlikely friendship. (And a chapletenic bite, it has to be

as a coot.")
At first sight, this appeared to be the most unlikely set of and Diane Abbott. As is well known, the disgraced former minister is godfather to the left-wing Labour MP's son, James, and they have been good friends since they were paired together in the Commons some years ago.

But the friendship between Ackroyd and Currie seems to be of a different order. For a start, it has only barely begun. A fortnight ago Currie was rung up by the National Theatre and asked to chair a talk by Ackroyd on the subject of Sir Thomas More, the subject of his latest biography and one of Currie's heroes. She happily agreed. Afterwards she was invited to a dinner at which Ackroyd was present.

The two got oo like a house on fire. "He's oproanious," says



Friends: Acknoyd and Currie



Currie. "Peter can down an enormous quantity of good wine. He's a lovely man and a wonderful human being. Other authors like Martin Amis could learn a lot from him."

Their cooversation was hroad-ranging, from the suggestion that Ackroyd might stand as Mayor of Londoo to the possibility of Melvyn Bragg

becoming a Lord. (Ackroyd apparently claimed to have heard Melvyn discussing it onthe phone with his mother.

Mrs Currie has long been an admirer of Ackroyd's work. Indeed she goes so far as to describe as "a worshipper".

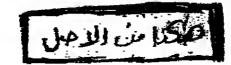
Perhaps here we have the nature of this relationship. Mrs Currie is a fan. But unlike most

consider him her chum. This is reminiscent of the case of Tony Banks and the American singer-soogwriter Aimee Mann. A oew but dedicated fan, wheo he discovered that she was in town, he faxed her record company inviting her for tea at the Commons. And so another somewhat unlikely

frieodship began. . However, Mr Banks admits that, "If I'd heen someooe who wasn't a Member of Parliament, my invitation would have been binned." And were Mrs Currie not a former MP, one suspects that she might oot have been dining with Peter Ackroyd. Membership clearly

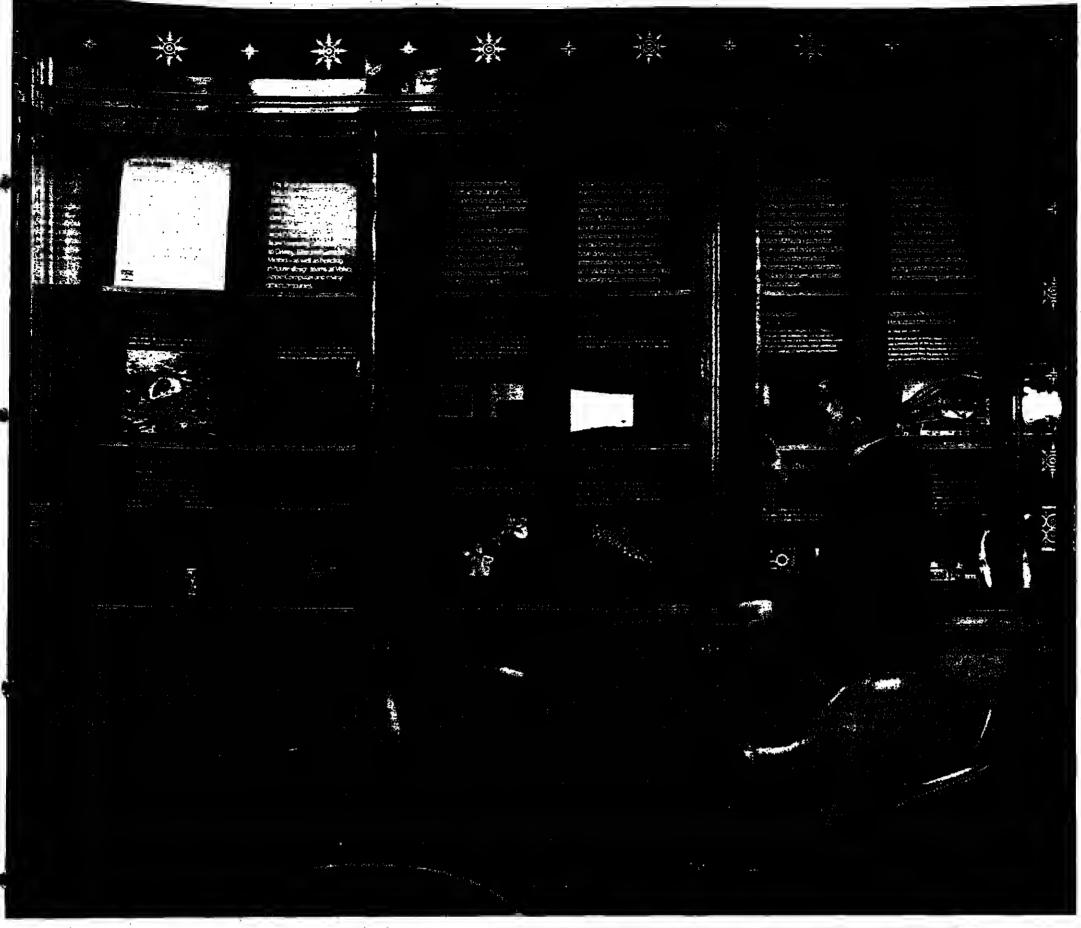
Tim Hulse

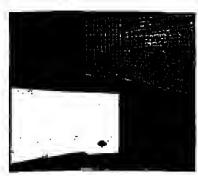
	V
THE INC	EPENDENT
Okabashi Sandal - Just £12.99 inc p&p Okabashi sandals are shoes which combine generation oriental foot care secrets with the latest in manufactor technology and design, at a very reasonable price. Molded into every shoe are dozens of pressure pads tiffically designated to massage away tension and provedies a tough but flexible codes shell. The soft, in inner-core of microscopic air cells constantly confor the contours of the feet for added support and natural correct weight distribution. The women's sandals are available in white and have smart 1½ beel. They are available in the following: 3.5.4 (M), 4.5.55 (ML), 6.6.5 (L), 7.8 (LL). The men's are available in black and are available in the ing sizes: 7.75 (M), 8.8.5 (L), 9.10 (LL), 10.5.	ous of aring scien-pride process lexible ms to ally a sizes:-
11 (XL). For just £12.99 inc petp you can slip your feet into a pair of Okabashi's and discover why over 100 million pairs have been sold around the world.	Please send me
HOW TO ORDER	by this amount. My card number k:
Fill in the compon and send regether with chaque or pastel order's. NO CASH please to	
THE PROPERDENT OKABASHI SANDAL OFFER (INDIX) P.O. BOX 222, CHATHAM, KENT, MB4 4FE.	
For Accest/Visa orders, please phone 81634 296005 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 296005 for all enquiries.	ADDRESS
We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order, Return within 7 days for refund if not completely mainfied. Offer subject to availability. By it figure 1988 the space Petring places and applications of the property	POST CODE Send to: THE INDEPENDENT OKABASHI SANDAL OFFER (IND2)81. P.O.BOX 222. CHATHAM, KENT, MEA LIFE. If companies approach by New apper Publisher Re. BY COMPANIES SENDENCE BOTH Offers Allow New apper Publisher Re.



Nin Robin's latest objects of desire

Lloyd Bridges dies at 85









Cabinet meeting: top row left to right: Minolta underwater camera by Seymour Powell; Nike sunglass es by Ideo; CD packaging for Cream by Dolfin and Pet Shop Boys by Pentagram; Paul Smith cufflinks; clockwork radio by Trevor Baylis. Bottom row: Attila can crusher by Studio Brown: Swatch telephone by PSD Design; Wallace & Gromit by Aardman Animations; Wannabe loafer by Patrick Cox; Fisher Price camera by Priestman Goode. Details above show Paul Smith cufflinks, Nike sunglasses and Patrick Cox loafer

Photographs: David Rose.

Our Foreign Secretary has a message for the rest of the world: British design is brilliant. But, says Nonie Niesewand, somebody else needs to listen - us

WHY would Robio Cook want a pair of Wannabe loafers by designer Patrick Cox io three shades of leather woveo together like mosiacs, or a copy of the Pet Shop Boys' orange bubble CD cover which sold three and a half million copies five years ago hanging around in his office? To represent the global reach of cutting edge design io Britain, of course. A dozen examples have been chosee by the Design Council in the first phase of a Foreign Officeled promotion, including two big-budget buildiogs abroad -

man Foster and the regional HO for Marscilles council by Will Alsop.

"I wanted to show the world that the Foreign Office in modern Britain is better than a collection of Hansards," the Foreign Secretary said. So his antique walnut 1860s Dutch bookcase was emptied to make a showcase. Its colourful and playful contents may represent the best of cutting edge contemporary design, but they also retell the familiar tale of how the best of British design ends up being manufactured abroad.

An underwater camera by Seymour Powell shaped like a banana to maximise brightness in the depths is made for Minolta in Japan. A Fisher Price children's camera digitises the image and prints it on fax pa-. per instantly. The cheapest digital camera of its type at \$39, it is not not on sale in Britain, but assembled in the Far East for an American company, though at least the microchip is Scottish. The Clockwork radio by Trevor Baylis is made by his company Bay-gen in South Africa. Attila, the ugly tool that crushes cans in its

the Reichstag in Berlin by Nor- for an Italian company, Rexite. So should the Foreign Secretary be showcasing objects not just designed but made in

> Britain too? "It really doesn't matter where it's made," argues Tim Brown of Ideo, whose wraparound Nike sunglasses are designed so that when your bead moves while running there is no. distortion. Grooves on the rub-

> > Wallace and Gromit are practically ambassadors for Britain already

berised bridge stop sweat from running into the eyes - just a small detail but one that makes them a winner. The US sprint relay team at the last Olympics. wore them.

"So what if it's a USA client, with bits made in Taiwan and Japan," Brown says. It's simply not an issue any more. Design Schwarzenegger pincer arms, really is a global business and was designed by Julian Brown we shouldn't take a national





Foster's Reichstag in Berlin, top, and Alsop's Le Grand Bleu regional council Le Grand Bleu, Roderick Coyne & Alsop & Scormer

view. Promoting Britain's cre- tioo) was part of this design ativity is great. If British manufacturers want a piece of the

action they will buy into it."

Designs that won't need much explanation to visiting dignitaries include Wallace and Gromit. Practically ambassadors abroad for Britain themselves, these animations by Nick Park talk to Peruvians and win Oscars, And Brit pop talks a lot more than some trade commissioners. Take the Pet Shop Boys, who have just returned from concerts in Russia where club performances in Moscow. "All the smart people are disparaging about Cool Britannia and this hype for design," says singer Neil Tennant. "But I used to get apoplectic with rage when I got oo to a plane and Britain was like in the Eighties. Those beefeaters in London, and cream teas io the Cotswolds. I prefer this new

Robin Cook is coocerned that the branding of Britain is within their buildings." seen to be on the cutting edge of design with international players. He personally requested that a computer image of Norman Foster's Reichstag in Berlin (still under construc-

statement. The other building on parade is Will Alsop of Alsop and Stormer's "le Grand Bleu" as the cobalt blue regional HQ of the Marseilles council is known. Alsop says its strength derives from an orchestrated experience between calmness and excitement.

For all those on a jingoistic trip about buying British Alsop reminds us that if it wasn't for the rest of the world, and Europe in particular, British architects would have hardly built fans paid \$100 a night for night- a thing in the Seventies and Eighties. He argues that if the Government wants to see the best of British design and architecture in this country it has got to do something about the "aesthetic policemen - the planning committees, Royal Fine they showed foreigners what Arts, English Heritage, all brought up with an idea of order, restraint, and good manners. Architects have proved that with technology and ocw materials, they can give the public extraordinary sensuality

> The rest of the world has known for a long time that British design taleot is worth investing in. The irony, as Alsop points out, is that we still haven't grasped it ourselves.

The winning radio that was almost a lost cause

First time round the Design Council said it couldn't be done. Now it has had to eat its words

THE CINDERELLA not invited to the Foreign Office to take a photocall with Robin wink and the Design Council chiefs is Trevor Baylis, inventor of the Clockwork radio. Yet the Foreign Secretary was unstinting in his praise for the windup radio that replaces batteries

onds and it will run for an

"Can I get the BBC?" the Foreign Secretary asked the young prodoct development designer who had worked with Baylis on the original concept. Yes, and what's more you can get it in some of the world's more remote areas, which is why Baylis, oow 60, set up his factory BayGen in Cape Town, to manufacture 80,000 radios a month. He hit on the idea while watching a TV programme on Aids in Africa. Struck by the fact that villages without electricity were cut off from information unless they could afford batteries, he invented a radio that

with a big spring in the side.

Crank up the handle for 25 section of the new African drum.

But getting his prototype out of his workshop and into production was a bitter struggle. In the urinals at his factory still hangs a framed copy of a letter that the Design Council sent him oo 12 March 1992 after it assessing the viability of promoting and backing his project. While the clockwork radio was "a well thought out product which would benefit its target market", it turned him down. It was "very unlikely that UK industry could enter profitably into a licensing agreement with this product. The major customers are third world countries which, with severe debts, would not be in a position

to pay for this device. The ex- Nearly rubbed out by those retent to which component parts could be manufactured in the UK was also felt to be limited".

Baylis is still angry: "The third world couldn't afford it and no British licensee could make a profit from it? Scandalous." So he got in touch with BBC's Tomorrow's World which gave him a five-minute slot. An accountant, Christopher Staines, saw the programme and said his firm could make it happen. Now they are pariners. "Within two weeks the pro-

ject had £1m, and funding from the beautiful, darling Lynda Chalker (former Foreign Minister) through the Overseas Development Agency. Bless her."

jections he admits that when he saw the first radios coming off the production line at Bay-Gen in Cape Town he broke down and cried "like a big girl's blouse".

Now the designer who prototyped his radio in a garden shed is pushing for an Academy of Inventors. The Institute of Mechanical Engineers would like to install him in the old Patent Office in London and he hopes that if Prince Charles is listening it will be given the status of Royal Academy. Mr Baylis will invite the big cheeses from the Design Council to the launch party.

Nonie Niesewand Cook Winding up Ed Clark



INDEPENDENT

WIN Warner Bros. Musicals range -A video collection to make a song and dance about

Win the collection which is We have 5 sets of the Warner

decades of cinema from the 50's and some of the greates

The collection includes: A Star is Born; April in Paris; Calamity Jane; Finlan's Rainbow; Gypsy; Catnelot, The Music Man; Tea for Two On Moonlight Bay; By the Light of the Silvery Hoon; Lighty Me and Lillaby of Broadway.

Call 0930 515898

The bar where you pay through the nose



Customers at New York's Oxygen Station breath in the pure O2 Photograph: Greg Williams/ Rex Features

Remember when bottled water was far-fetched? Helen Wilkinson in New York experiences a natural high, coming soon to Britain

ONCE people went to the seaside for fresh air and fun. Now it's pure oxygen that increasing numbers of New Yorkers are demanding, courtesy of an oxygen har. And the first stop in Britain for this Big Apple fad is Blackpool.

The medical henefits of high-grade oxygen have been known for some time - the US Food and Drug Administratioo approves of oxygen therapy for the treatment of 13 specific problems including migraine and headaches - but now the concept is being taken a stage further. Oxygeo is being marketed as an essential adjunct to hailed for its ability to strengthen the body's immune system, centration, and boost energy.

oxygen bar, The Oxygen Station, opened seven months ago. Yesterday the Blackpool business Finns said it would seek clearance from environmental health officials to offer oxygen as a "pollution-beating, stress-relieving, pure and natural high".

In search of this natural high I took myself off to The Oxygen Station, For 20 minutes I sat in a reclining chair, sipped herbal tea, and listened to New Age music while oxygen was pumped from a canister oxygen will slow down the agethrough tubes inserted in my nostrils. All for a mere \$201

The Oxygen Station has positioned itself at the cutting (it's tucked away in the Healing Centre on 57th Street, near The trend kicked off in Central Park) and its minimal-market. America when New York's first ist decor provides a perfect en-

teries, rejuvenate and escape the worst excesses of urban life. You can even have oxygeo facials while you breathe in the O2. Regular partakers at the

centre include authors who are suffering writer's block, husinessmen who need a pep up before hig meetings, athletes intent on improving their performance and - as you would expect - the "beautiful people", actors and models who believe ing process, improve complexions, and increase hair and nail growth (oot to mention their libidos). The Station is also the modern urban lifestyle, edge of New Age activities, more than happy to take oxypromising a plethora of bene- gen to clients. Private oxygen fits. Its unohtrusive location parties and corporate hrainheard of -and are a big growth

an understandable reluctance a major selling point. on the part of The Station's managers to name drop, But

reison have both extolled the virtues of oxygen therapy, and the celebrity gym Radu Physical Culture, where Cindy Crawoxygen on demand along with vegetable and fruit juices.. the people whose job it is to

Kirsty Allen and Woody Har-

quick to identify the appeal of oxygen to young urban professionals who work and play hard. They predict that oxygen bars will rapidly spring up through-

on itself as a cool hangout if you want to get high, but the more ambivalent consumer. advertise 12-step programmes don't want the harmful effects Price may also be an issue. for oxy addicts, we'll know this

Science fiction has long depicted societies where enviroomental devastation means that the simple necessities of life like air and water -- come at a price. The first sign that this quality deteriorated to dangerously low levels in some Japan-New York's cool merchants ese cities. Booths - nicknamed oxygen stations - appeared on spot hip trends - have been street corners, letting commuters top up their oxygeo quotas en route to work.

But whether New York's The Oxygen Station is keen tainly need a redesign to make affinent in the Eighties. it a more enticing prospect for

vironment to recharge the bat- this service in the city, there is that never sleeps, this could be minute, alcohol is likely to remain the drug of preference for the vast majority. (The Blackpool bar is pricing itself much more competitively at a mere £2 for 20 minutes.)

But these are minor considerations. Although I can't quite vision might become reality see hordes of Manhattanites (or ford works out, provides bottled came in the Eighties when air Blackpool promenaders, come to that) walking into their local bar, ordering a bottle of O2, and sitting around with tubes un their nostrils, if oxygen bars are marketed as the ultimate in urban chic and sophistication, they just might catch on. After all, buying oxygen seems less far-Oxygen Station will prove to be fetched if you consider how "the bar of the future" remains quickly huying bottled water to be seen. It will almost cer- hecame the norm among the

As the only place offering of alcohol or drugs. In the city With oxygen costing \$1 a trend has well and truly arrived.

Not waving, but drowning

Kate Watson-Smyth on one woman's determination to die

Leonard walked down to a and jumped in to give her the beach in South Wales and stood looking out to sea.

She chose a quiet spot away from the fishermen and took off the skirt she was wearing over her leggings
- she did oot want to get dragged under too soon. Then she walked out into the water, until it was up to her waist, and swam out into the Bristol Channel.

The next thing she knew she was waking up in hospital after being pulled to safety by a helicopter crew. Her attempted suicide had failed.

Two days ago her body was found washed up on the same beach where she first walked into the sea. This time there was no one to

Miss Leonard, a 46-yearold divorcée with no family. had been suffering from depression since her marriage broke up in 1980. After her rescue she said she would not try to commit suicide again. It was a promise she would he unable to keep.

Christmas was a terrible time because I do not have any family to speak of," she said. "I didn't get any cards and felt as if there was no one in the world who cared whether I lived or died."

The day hefore New Year's Eve, Miss Leonard made up her mind. Slipping out of Sully Hospital, where she was being treated for her depression, she went down to the beach. "I just planned to float about and wait for the outgoing tide to take me to the ocean.

"I rolled onto my back stroke. The sun felt warm oo my face and I began to feel very calm and at peace."

But the crew of a police helicopter oo a training flight were called to the sceoc after a passer-by saw Miss Leonard floating face down in the water.

son, skimmed the craft along crew who saved her, said: "It girdle climbed along the It was always a possibility she landing skids and grahbed hold of Miss Leonard. As attempt was genuine - she

TEN weeks ago Jacqueline water he gently lowered her kiss of life.

The next day pictures of the rescue were all over the papers, Miss Leonard said: "I realise now it was a stunid thing to do. I am sorry for what I did and have no intention of doing it again." She spoke of moving to Snowdonia and opening an animal sanctuary: "I just want to get out of hospital and stand on my own two feet."

But it was not to be. At some point during the past few days she returned to the beach and waded out to sea

> It was a stupid thing to do, she said. But she could not stay away

was found by the same crew who rescued her.

The sense of a woman driven to take her life to such an extent that she ritualistically returned to the place of her first attempt is apparent. According to Dr Mike Nowers, a consultant psychiarrist at Cossham Hospital, Bristol, there is no research into why people return to the same spot.

"There is certainly ancedotal evidence to suggest that they will do so," he said. "Thave heard of a case where a woman was rescued from and started doing hack- a lake and was then found dead there 18 months later ... But every case has its own circumstances and is unique to that person."

And as with every suicide, the distress of those left behind is all too appareot. Jacqueline Leonard may have had no family, but Gra-The pilot, Angus Pater- ham Plumridge, one of the has left us all feeling very sad. would try again. Her previous they reached the shallow was not attention-seeking."

My 12-year-old daughter wants to be a model

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA **IRONSIDE**

INDEPENDENT

WIN a Holpoint ® washing machine

- treat your kitchen to the very best

For more information call the Hotpoint Information Line 0541 50 60 70 www.hotpoint.co.uk

Calls cost 50p per manuta at all times. Winner picked at random after 15 March 1998. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apoly. Editor's del

RIGHT-WING family groups out of looking at the photohave suggested that girls in the graphs of very young models same situation as Marcia's daughter ought to be taken into care, rather than be allowed to pursue modelling careers. But that's because they know of childish innocence than nothing about modelling. It's not about sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. It's about sheer a different position to Marcia's hard work, and you're kept slim by early-morning shoots and rushing around rather than by developing eating disorders. A model's figure is not seen as a sexual nne; it is more like a and French schoolgirl coats, beautiful racehorse, a work of art. Paedophiles may get a buzz and patent leather shoes. I

Thanks to One Touch Programme Selection, Utilma is incredibly easy to use. All the wash decaits are displayed in the Unique Infobible Display, whilst Pulti Wash Programme to suit your needs. Available in Classic Polar White with Mercury control panel, Natural Linen with Natural Calico control panel or Classic Polar White with White with White with White control panel.

chine to wir. To enter this competition the number below answer the question

you will hear on line and leave your name and full address stating which colour you

but, without knowing the first thing about how paedophiles minds work, I'd imagine they'd be more turned on by pictures childish sophistication.

When I was young I was in

daughter. I was pushed into modelling by my fashion professor mother who would get me walking down catwalks in horribly fashionable tea dresses complete with long white socks hated every single stressful, embarrassing, boring, unpaid minute of it. Every single "Ooh" and "Aaah" made me squirm. And after standing in the Brighton Pavilion in a tight silk party dress all day under burning lights with Norman Parkinson snapping away, I remember fainting, to the shricks and curses of the fashion editor who was doing the shoot. She refused to speak to me all the way back in the train.

However, had I been paid and seen it as a lucrative job of work rather than a favour I'd been manipulated into by my mother, I think I would have enjoyed it enormously. My minicareer would have boosted my self-esteem no end. And the money can be considerable. couraged to spend a bit, hnt to save vast chunks to put down on a flat when she gets older. If it's

hausting as modelling - there's no question of what the answer is. As a hairdresser friend of mine said, "They may screw her up, darling, but at least she'll make loads of dosh."

But I don't think they will screw her up. Marcia could go with her on some shoots, and it's certainly not in the model agency's interests to create a monster, a sulky narcissistic prima donna. They'll want to keep her as sweet and young as possible; she'll be easier to

There is an idea that children these days become adults too quickly. There is actually another argument, that you never hear, which is that children doo't grow up quickly enough. The whole idea of such a long "childhood" and the innocence surrounding it only came into being in the Victorian era. Not all, but some children, are naturally ready for work, at least part-time, at a younger age than 16.

As long as Marcia's daughter is capable of taking the odd job while keeping up with her school work and her friends, what harm can there be in her earning a bomb now and again. and being made to feel wonderful and confident at the same time? She should make the most of the opportunities that are offered in life; they Marcia's daughter could be en- rarely come twice. And if she's got it, she should not only flaunt it but grah the money while she can. When her bust the choice between modelling and hips develop, after all, she and a paper round - nearly as may find the only joh on offer boring and stressful and ex- is on a supermarket checkout.

READERS SAY

I STARTED modelling at 14 (against everyone's advice). It boosted my confidence and has enriched my life. You learn social skills and independence, and have loads of fun. I worked on weekends and holidays but finished my A-levels with good grades. If you think your daughter is stable enough to say "no thanks" to men, drugs, and overzealous dietary programmes, and still do her homework, it would be a shame to deprive her of the advantages of modelling. To a girl who's got both feet on the ground, the modelling world is no more dangerous than your local high street. Perhaps you could accompany her to shoots until both of you feel more comfortable.

On the other hand, if you think she's not strong enough to face semi-grown-up life yet,

ing a few years. Her physical prime is most likely years ahead. and it may be that she'll be better equipped to make the best of it then. Who knows, it may turn out that she doesn't like modelling anyway - trudging around offices and having to look great all the time can be discouraging too. But that's something that she'll have to find out for herself. If you were Kate Moss's mother, would you really have said "no"?

Her outlook is paramount MODELLING is an uncertain business and only for the confident and mature. At the age of 12, your daughter may well be too young - especially if her childishness is compromised by her appearing in pictures which are overthy sexual. Added to that, the amount of money models can earn would set her apart from her contemporaries.

M Hansen, London N5

Only let her do it if you think

she has nothing to lose by wait- with the attention and the in- groups her daughter would like evitable rejection. Make sure you monitor her pictures and the agency's role constantly. Above all, make sure you protect her against the drugs, eating disorders and exploitation that the industry is rife with. But if you can do all this - go ahead. The financial rewards are huge. Georgina Pattinson

London SW 15

Marcia's a single parent and her 12 and a half-year-old

daughter was recently spotted at school by a reputable

mad keen, but Marcia feels uneasy. What should she do?

model agency, which has asked her to join. Her daughter's

Share your good fortune I IMAGINE the source of Marcia's unease is the narcissism and exploitation tied up with the fashion industry. But instead of an attempt to embark on an ethical discussion or a heavy-handed refusal to let her daughter work for the agency, Marcia should praise her daughter's beauty, congratulate her on her good sense and harness that other powerful instinct in young people towards altruism. Then they could decide together to which of their

to give part of her fee. Emily Bayliss, Newport

Be ready for disappointment ABOUT a year ago, my daughter, Susan, who is now 14, was approached by a model agency at a dance studio. They made all kinds of glamorous promises and we agreed to have a first photo session. I was proud to see Susan coping with this experience - she had enormous fun. Of course, she expected to get modelling offers in the following munths. You can imagine what it was like at home during that time. I was anxious that her performance at school would suffer but quite the contrary - she seemed to grow in

self-confidence after the session. However, we didn't hear anything more from the agency. It has been disappointing, but Susan has gained a lot from the experience. If I were you, I'd let her try it out and see what she is mature enough to cope favourite charities or pressure Henri Doerr, London W!

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

WE MOVED into a flat three years ago, from a month after we moved in. Now with a freeholder from hell. She is a lovely couple want to buy it. She is pregdrunk, abusive and, frankly, mad. We cannot go into the garden, even though it is tension, and using the garden, but haven't ours, because she throws water over us noticed the drawbacks in the lease beand screams abuse from the windows, we cause they are doing the conveyancing have tried to get planning permission for themselves. Do we sell the flat to them, an extension but though the council is or warn them? My husband says we will keen, she has always blocked it because never sell it if we warn every potential of an extremely badly written lease. We buyer of the pitfalls, but this is such a have been trying to sell it, unsuccessfully, lovely couple. Yours sincerely, Clara

Leuers are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182). by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

thara kin

AFTER more than 20 years as Blondie Goes to College (1942). an actor in theatre and cinema, Alias Boston Blackie (also 1942) Lloyd Bridges found interna- and The Crime Doctor's tional fame as an underwater investigator in the television series in slapstick two-reclers, a seri-Sea Hunt. Twenty-three years al, and such "A" features as Here later, his career in eclipse, he found new fame by spoofing his Talk of the Town (1942), The own macho image in the film

He was then 67, hut looked four years at the studio, he made far younger, thanks to regular exercise; be played tennis, skied, Perhaps the reason for the relentless physical regime that kept him looking so lean and virile for more than seven decades is that President William Howard Taft once presented him with a trophy for being America's Fattest Baby

Bridges wasn't the first actor in his family; his father. Lloyd Bridges, Senior, had played in silent films. While stidying political science at UCLA, Lloyd Jnr joined the University Dramatic Society and appeared in classic and contemporary plays. After gradu- eral films on the subject of ating, he acted in various stock colour prejudice. It was the companies, and toured in a production of The Taming of the GI (James Edwards), who, on Shrew before hraving New York. After two uneventful years, he and some actor friends formed "The Playroom Cluh". of Bridges, his fellow soldier and one of the first off-Broadway only friend. Bridges also scored theatre companies. Bridges as an arrogant ex-Nazi army ofmade his Broadway début as an extra in a production of Othello (1937), co-starring Walter erous deputy in High Noon Huston and Brian Aherne, and (1952). had better roles in Cocteau's The Infernal Machine (1937) and Eugene O'Neill's Susennah and the Elders (1940). Spotted by the film executive Sidney Buchman, be was signed to a contract with Columbia Pictures at \$75

a week His first film was The Lone of a long series of Lone Wolf"B" features churned out by Co-

Strangest Case (1943), as well as Comes Mr Jordan (1941), The Commandos Strike at Dawn (1943) and *Salvara* (1943). In his

more than 45 films. "To get their money's worth jogged, and, of course, swam. Out of me, they'd put me in two or three pictures a week." Bridges recalled. "As a result, 1 worked with a lot of stars like Ronald Colman, Cary Grant, Paul Muni and Humphrey Bogart. They were real stars."

The turning-point in his ca-

reer came after he left Columbia and appeared in Lewis Milestone's A Walk in the Sun [1945], one of the few Hollywood films about the Second World War that had any distinction. The same war formed the background of Home of the Brave (1949), one of the first libstory of an African-American a Japanese-held atoll in the South Pacific, suffered psychological paralysis after the death ficer in The White Tower (1950) and as Gary Cooper's treach-

with Lee J. Cobb in another western, The Tall Texan. In June 1953, Cobb testified to the House Committee on Un-American Activities that Bridges was once a Communist, The resultant dip in his career took Bridges back to Broadway, Wolf Takes a Chance (1941), one where he appeared in the play Dead Pigeon (1953), but the production itself was dead in ries, of course, and Bridges came his way was of a minor na-

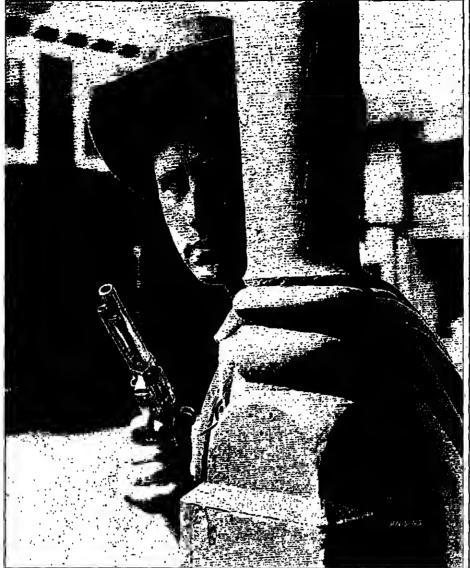
That same year, he appeared

Katharine Hepburn's meanspirited brother in The Rainmaker (1956).

Because he had once seen him play a sponge-diver in a minor movie called 16 Fathoms Deep (1948), the television producer Ivan Tors offered Bridges the role of the suhagneous Mike Nelson in Sea Huat. The series was turned down by every American network, in the belief that a weekly undersea adventure show would soon run out of story ideas. They were proved resoundingly wrong; Sea Hunt ran in syndication from 1957 to 1961, notching up 156 episodes, and making Bridges into a household name. He also directed some segments of Sea Hunt, and his daughter Lucinda, as well as his now famous sons Jeff and Beau. appeared in the show.

Although he made occasional films such as Around the World Under the Sea and Attack on the Iron Coast (both 1968), most of Bridges's post-Sea Hunt roles now came from television; he played a freelance journalist in The Lloyd Bridges Show (1962-63), a disillusioned excavalry officer in the western series The Loner (1965-66), and starred in many small-budget television movies. In 1974, the magazine Film Dope, white recognising that Bridges's acting potential was stronger than ever, wrote that television quickies were "now his staple diet, but what else can be expected from somebody who has voluntarily spent the last 15 years of his screen career underwater, being upstaged by

various sharks and octopi?" Six years, and many TV quickies later, Bridges's career was given a surprise shot in the arm by Airplane, the outrageous lampoon of air disaster films, in which he played Mc-Croskey, the harried air-traffic lumbia. The studio had other se- three weeks. What film work controller. "What a week to give up smoking!" he cried, filling his



Lean and virile: Bridges in High Noon, 1952

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

tension mounted, McCroskey declared it was an equally inappropriate week to give up drinking, and, finally, gluesuffing, each time abusing his system appropriately. Airplane was written and di-

rected by Jim Abrahams, David Zucker and Jerry Zucker. Abrahams directed and co-wrote Hot Shots! (1991), in which Bridges managed to top his of the United States. Even McCroskey performance as mad Admiral Tug Benson, who made his entrance stepping confidently off a 727 before the steps had been rolled out, and appeared in most of them; in ture until 1956, when he played lungs with tobacco fumes. As plummeting, still saluting, on to Tookey wrote in the Daily Mail:

the tarmac. Later, in this frenzied parody of Top Gun; he told his young pilots: "Tve personally flown over 194 missions, and I was shot down on every one. I've never landed a plane in my

Two years later, the sequel, Hot Shots! Part Deux, revealed that "Tug" Benson had left the navy and become the President more demented than before, Benson greeted Charlie Sheen with a warm: "You're the son I never had. No wonder I didn't recognise you," Christopher

"The best thing in the movie is veteran actor Lloyd Bridges." He appeared with his son

Bean in the television series Harts of the West (1993), and with his son Jeff in Blown Away (1994). "I play Jeff's. father-figure," he told an interviewer. "Which obviously didn't require much method

Dick Vosburgh

Lloyd Vernet Bridges, actor: born San Leandro, California 15 January 1913; morried 1938 Dorothy Simpson

B. A. Santamaria

more than two decades, yet he never sat in parliament or even joined a political party. He will be remembered as the man who helped to cause a split in the Australian Labor Party in the mid-1950s so devastating that it kept Lahor out of power for almost 20 years.

Santamaria's main crusade was against Communism, especially its spread among trade unions after the Depression of the Thirties. He was a conservative Catholic who enlisted the aid of the Church in his political activities. And, long after Communism had been purged from Labor politics, Santamaria remained a leading polemicist and social commentator, attacking other movements such as economic rationalism, feminism, gay rights and anything that threatened the sanctity of family life. His primary pulpit was a column in the Australian. a national newspaper, which he wrote for 33 years until he became ill from a brain tumour at the end of last year.

Bartholomew Augustine Santamaria (he was known as Boh, but always wrote under the formal name B.A. Santamaria) was born to Sicilian imnigrant parents in the inner Melbourne suburb of Brunswick, then a working-class neighbourhood. He was a brilliant student, and it was while he was studying Law at the University of Melbourne in the 1930s that Santamaria became involved in the first of a series of groups attached to the Catholic Church that served as his political power base later. At university, he also met Daniel Mannix, then the Catholic Archhishop of Melhourne, a powerful figure who encouraged Santamaria to work against the rising influence of Communism in the unions,

Mannix's hiographer. The Labor Party at that time drew much of its support from Australia's Irish Catholic working class. By the early 1940s, the anti-Communist crusade became focused on a body called the Catholic Social Movement. known simply as "The Movement", an organisation whose members formed industrial groups to oppose Communist candidates at union elections. aptly titled The Company We | The seeds of the hig Labor split of the 1950s were sown in the Movement's clandestine campaign. At its simplest, that split was one between the mainly Catholic right wing of the Labor Party and the non-Catholic left, particularly in the state of Victoria where the Movement had its roots.

Santamaria later became

The split hurst into the open m 1954, when Herbert Evatt, then the Labor Party leader. publicly denounced Santamaria and his supporters for disloyalty to Labor. At the party's 1955 conference, Santamaria's supporters walked out and formed a breakaway party of their own. the Democratic Labor Party Blokeney, Norfolk 21 February 1998. | (DLP). Santamaria himself nev-

B. A. SANTAMARIA was one er joined the DLP, but he exof the most influential figures. erted strong influence over it as in Australian political life for a campaigner, organiser and writer. His main platform was as president of the National Civic Council, the lay body that succeeded the Movement in 1957 and of which Santamaria remained president until he

> Under Australia's preferential voting system, the DLP gave its second-preference votes at successive general elections to the conservative Liberal-National coalition. The effect of this was catacivsmic for Labor. Thanks largely to DLP preference votes, the coalition - first elected in 1949 - stayed in power for 23 unbroken years, Labor did not return to power until 1972 under Gough Whitiam after shedding its old socialist tags and reforming itself as a party of the middle ground, a process taken even further in the 1980s and 1990s under the leaderships of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating. The DLP no longer exists.

During Labor's wilderness years, Santamaria's influence on the ruling coalition was at its strongest in foreign policy. He was a leading proponent of one of the Cold War's most strident and excitable war-cries, the "threat from the north". This was the theory that Australia's security was at imminent risk from the "downward thrust of Asian Communism", emanating from China. It helped to drive Australia into the Vietnam war, to which the country committed 50,000 troops, of whom 500 died

In his crusade against the totalitarianism of Communism. Bob Santamaria was proved



Santamaria: polemicist

eventually to be a man before his time. On many of his other causes, though, he appeared in his later years as a man increasingly out of his time. Yet he kept the respect even of some of his lifelong encmies in the Labor Party for his unwavering dedication to his cause and his contribution to intellectual life as a powerful public speaker and the author of 10

Robert Milliken

Bartholomew Augustine Sonta-

Barbara Kaye

"MINDING My Own Business" was the title of her bookseller husband's memoirs, and it might have been Barbara Kaye's motto in her long and

courageous life. Percy Muir was still a junior director of the great firm of Elkin Mathews (founded in 1885) when they married in March 1937, but had become de facto its manager. He was 42, she was 28. Almost at once they were plunged into the nightmare of a lost libel case, from which they were only rescued by her small savings. But she was too realistic and too fond of Percy to be put off by this inauspicious beginning, and was soon plunged into the last excitements of bookselling in London

with S.S. Koteliansky, the friend the country, when Ian Fleming, of war. He was largety respon-



Kaye: tenacity

of Katherine Mansfield and D.H. Lawrence, who planted a pear-tree in their garden. She helped Percy, taking part in the task of smuggling the manubefore the Second World War. script of Mozart's "Haffner" They shared a house in St Symphony to safety, and orthat war was imminent.

Suffolk, the daughter of a professional writer, and begun a career as a journalist. Now, despite having to maintain a household that now included two small children as well as her hushand and Elisabeth, the German girl who was the sole relic of the bookshop staff, she found time to write and to start a canteen for evacuees. When peace returned (though not plenty), she met a new challenge, helping Percy rehuild old links with his continental John's Wood, north London, gamised the move of the firm to colleagues and heal the wounds

Sir William Henry Perkin, chemist,

1838; Adolph Simon Ochs, newspa-per proprietor. 1858; Gabriele D'An-

nunzio, poet and politician, 1863;

William Halse Rivers Rivers, an-

at the Admiralty, warned them tionships on a formal hasis council, presiding over the lo-came to join her in 1987. She settled down to life in International League of Anti- ganising entertainments for the lishing a continuation of Mindthe rambling old house at Take- quarian Booksellers. She con- village, fete, hesides doing all ing My Own Business (1956), ley, near Bishop's Stortford in trived, despite rationing, to Hertfordshire, which now he- entertain his colleagues, new came the Elkin Mathews and old, and the trade owes her premises. She had been born in a great deht for her part in this post-war revival.

Little of this is reflected in the novels that she wrote now and later, 13 in all, under the pen name Barhara Kaye. They all dealt with contemporary life and its problems, seen very much in a local context. Blackmarket Green (1950) was a portrait of a village in wartime, Festival at Froke (1951) reflects the impact of the Festival of Britain and Champion's Mead (1951) the foundation of Harlow New Town, not far away. All this was observed at first hand. for she was always in the thick auctions. To her delight, her son

through the foundation of the cal Women's Institute and orsorts of good that her energetic and gregarious temperament suggested to her. To be a friend of hers was to be a friend for life.

The growth of Stansted airport finally made life at Takeley no longer hearable, and they moved to Blakeney in Norfolk. There Percy died in 1979. It was the end of an era in the history of Elkin Mathews. By now Barbara was the sole member of its staff, and might well have accepted a good offer for the stock and wound up the business. But giving up was not in her nature. With her usual courage and tenacity, she kept it going, did up the premises and took to guing to book fairs and

its newest director and already sible for putting these rela- of things, sitting on the district. David, already a bookseller,

She went on writing, pub-Kept (1986), and a sequel, Second Impression (1995). She sailed her dinghy off the Norfolk coast into her eighties, gardened indefatigably, and would go halfway across England to the Wordsworth Trust book-collectors' weekends until last year. She faced the ills of old age when they came without complaint and, as always, with courage.

Nicolas Barker Barbara Kenrick Gowing (Barbara Kaye), writer and bookseller: born Saxmundham, Suffolk 4 August 1908: married 1937 P.H. Muir (died 1979; one son, one daughter); died

maria, political activist and commentator: born Melbourne, Victoria 14 August 1915; President, National Civic Council 1957-1998; married 1939 Helen Poweridied 1980: three sons, five daughters), 1983 Dorothy Jensen; died Melbourne 25

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

MITCHELL: Matecolm, 1936-1998. Musician, co-lounder MMA-HP-JCM. Loving and adored husband, father and grandfather. On 9 March, peacefully, after bravely and beautifulty coping with his long illness. In tribute, donations to St Wilfred's Hospice, clooker, motor of Directors. Might Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1RR.

IN MEMORIAM ** BARR: Frederick died on Thursday 12 Murch 1992, Much loved.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & TEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anahersaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 5DL, telephoned to Di71-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0(7)-293 2011) or faxed to 0(7)-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a fine (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announce-ments (notices, functions, Forthcomments (notices, functions, furnitaring marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at (10 a line, VAY extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime selephone number.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Soci-Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Emergragement of Arts. Mandactures and Commerce, chairs the 1998 of Philip Leature and attends a disperal 8 John Adam Street, London W.C.:
The Prince of Wales visits Genville and Colm College Combinition. Calus College, Cambridge

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Menated Regi-gent mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: F Company Scots Guards mounts the Oncen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, H. Alam, band pro-vided by the Welsh Guards.

Birthdays

Sir Antony Acland, Provost of Eton College, former diplomat, 68: Dr Gioranni Agnelli, chairman, Istituto Finanziario Industriale, 77; Mr Rudolph Agnew, chairman, Lasmo, 64; Mr Edward Albee, playwright, 70; Mr Rooald Alley, artist and former Keeper of Modern Art, Tate Gallery, 72: Mrs Virginia Bottomley MP, 50: Mr Norbert Brainin, solo violinist, 75; Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, former Di-rector of the Royal Collection, 67; Mr Willie Duggan, rugby footballer, 48; Mr John Gross, writer and editor, 63; Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Garter Prin-cipal King of Arms, 58; Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, former MP, 60: Mr Philip Jones, former Principal, Trin-Anthony Loehnis, former vice-chairman, S.G. Warburg & Co, 62: Mr David Mellor QC, former MP, 49: Miss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 52: Mr David Minaric, interior deconitor, 59: Mr Roland Moyle, barrister and former government minister, 70; Mr Patrick Procktor, painter, 62; Mr Ralph Shapey, composer and conductor, 77; Viscount & Co. 47: Miss Gudrun Urc. actress 72; Miss Elizabeth Vaughan, operatic soprano, 61; Lord Wallace of Saltaire. professor of International Studies, 57; Mr Paul Way, golfer, 35; Mr David Oliver Williams, former Gen-eral Secretary, COHSE, 72; Mr David Wilmot, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police, 55; Miss Georgie Withers, actress, 81.

Anniversaries

Births: John Aubrey, antiquary, In26: George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, philosopher, 1685: Thomas Augustine Arne, composer I"Rule. Britannia"), 17III; John Frederic Daniell, chemist, 1790; Sir Joseph Prestwich, geologist, 1812; Gustav Roben Kirchhoff, physicist, 1824; Sir August Friedrich Manns, conductor, 1825; Benjamin Williams Leader. painter, 1831; Capt Charles Cun-ningham Boycon, land agent (from whose name the word "boycon" is mani, organisi and composer, 1837: Juliette Gordon Low, 1912; the

thropologist, 1864; Kemal Ataturk (Mustapha Kemal), soldier and ın, 1881: Philip Guedalla, historian, 1889: Vaslay Fornich Nijinsky. dancer. 1890; Kylie (Kathleen) Tennant, novelist, 1912; Gordon Mac-Rae, actor and singer, 1921; Jack (Jean-Louis) Kerouac, novelist, 1922 Deaths: Innocent I, pope, 417; Si Gregory I, pope, 604; Ranulf Higden, author of the Polychronicon history. author of the Polychronicon history, 1364; Cesare Borgia, cardinal, soldier and politician. killed 1507; John Bull, organist and composer, 1628; Frans van Mieris the Elder, painter, 1681; Alessandro Magnusco, painter, 1749; James Tibbius Willmore, line engraver, 1863; Guetano Milanesi, scholar and painter, 1895; George Westinehouse, inventor, 1914; Hitor of rayon, 1924; Sun Yal-sen, Chinese leader, 1925; Edward Wyltis Scripps, journalist, at sea 1926; William T. Dannat, artist, 1929, Ivar Kreuger, industralist and swindler, 1932; Charles-Marie Jean-Albert Widor, organist and composer, 1937: Sir William Bragg, scientist, 1942: Anne Frank, diarist, at Bergen-Belseo 1945; Tolchard Evans, popu lar composer and conductor, 1978; Arnold Ridley, playwright and actor, 1984; Sir Harold Hobson, drama critic. 1992. On this day: the Battle of Stamford was fought at Horn, near Exton, between Edward IV and the Lancastrians, 1470; the Bermudas became an English colony, 1609; the United States Post Office was es-tablished, 1789; the Theatre Royal. Drury Lane. London (third thealre). opened, 1794; the Sikhs surrendens to the British at Rawalpindi, 1849. Verdi's Simon Buccanegra was first performed, Venice 1857; Britain annexed Basutoland, 1868; the Albery Theatre, London, opened as the New Theatre, 1903; the first main line

electric train in the UK ran from Liverpool to Southport, 1904; the Girl

Guides (later Scouts) movement

foundation stone of the Australian capital Canberra was laid, 1913; in Britain a 30mph speed limit was im-1935; the coronation took place of Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, as Pope Pius XII, 1939: Finland signed a peace treaty which made territorial concessions to the Soviet Union, 1940; Mauritius became independent, 1968. Today is the Feast Day of St Alphege of Winchester, SI Bernard of Capua, St Maximilian of Theveste, SI Paul Aurelian or of Leon, Saints Peter, Gorgonius and Dorotheus, St Seraphina or Fina and St Theophanes

Lectures National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Mothers (2): Zurbarán, Saint Margaret of Antioch". 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimell. "Chinoiseric and British Ceramics*, 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Si-mon, "The Art of the Picture Frame (2): the 18th century". 1.10pm. Gresham College (Barnard's Ins Hall, London ECt): Professor Richard Holloway, "Negotiating the Ethical Minefield: the politics of abortion", 5.30pm.

Appointments

Mr Robert Ian Martin, to be Re-gional Chairman of Social Security Appeal Tribunals, Medical Appeal Tribunals, Disability Appeal Triburnals and Child Support Appeal Tri-burnals for the Midland and East Anglia Region. His Honour Judge Dyer, Mr Nicholas Davidson QC, Miss Rosamund Horwood-Smart QC,

Everall QC and Mr David Pittaway to be Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple. Lord Hardle QC, to be an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. Mr T.M. Ashe OC. to be Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple. Brigadier John Meardon RM, to be

Receiver General of Camerbury

Mr Stuart Brown QC, Mr Mark

LAW REPORT: 12 MARCH 1998

Court had jurisdiction to add charges

Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord justice Buston, Mr justice Rougier and the Common Serjeant) 5 March (998

WHERE offences charged against a young person which were not suitable for summary trial were transferred to the Crown Court for trial on indictment, the court had jurisdiction to add to the indictment summary offences which were closely linked to them, and which had previously been withdrawn in the magistrates' court.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Paul John Stephenson against his conviction of one count of indecent assault and two counts of assault occasioning actual hodily harm.

The appellant, who was aged 17, had appeared before the youth court, charged with two cases of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and three cases of indecent assault. All the alleged offences concerned the same complainant. Win Hunter (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Sean Larkin (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Buxton said plied to withdraw those that the youth court had de- charges in the magistrates' before the court on such an in-

sault counts were not suitable for summary trial. They were offences to which section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 applied, and could therefore be committed for trial to the Crown Court under section 23 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980. On the same date, the appellant had pleaded guilty to the two charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, but the youth court had determined that those pleas should be

treated not as final pleas but

simply as an indication of his

intention as to plea.

The principal crown prosecutor responsible for the proceedings against the appellant in the youth court had taken the view that the actual bodily harm charges were closely linked to the indecent assault charges and that they should all be tried together in the Crown Court. She had therefore applied for the indecent assault charges to be transferred to the Crown Court and, having obtained confirmation that no pleas in respect of the actually bodily harm charges had been recorded on the previous occasion, had ap-

they should be added to the indictment in the Crown Court. The appeal had arisen be-

cause it was contended that it was not open to the Crown Court to add those counts to the indictment because the offences should have been dealt with at the magistrates' court in accordance with section 24 of the 1980 Act. Where a person under 18

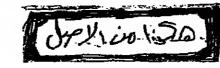
appeared before a youth court on an information charging him with an indictable offence not covered by section 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 he should be tried summarily. Section 24 of the 1980 Act however, provided that that step should he taken only when a juvenile appeared before the youth court on an information. In the present case, once the prosecution had taken the step of withdrawing the actual hodily harm charges, the appellant had not been before the mag- consider all of the related istrates' court on such an information the only infor- always admitted his guilt of mation then before the court the actual bodily harm counts, being that charging the and there had been no subindecent assaults.

Counsel for the appellant said that did not matter. The appellant had originally been

Regina v Stephenson; Court of termined that the indecent as court, with the intention that formation and should therefore have been proceeded against summarily. Once that step had not been taken, section 24(1) of the 1980 Act had the effect of depriving the Crown Court of jurisdiction over those charges, however much joinder of the actual hodily harm counts was otherwise within the

> Crown Court's powers. Section 24 was, however, directed only at the procedure of the magistrates' court. It could not operate so as to deprive the Crown Court of jurisdiction to consider the joinder of a count such as the actual bodily harm counts in the present case. The Crown Court had jurisdiction to decide in an appropriate case that joinder of such a count would be an abuse of the process of the Crown Court. Nothing of the sort had been suggested in the present case. The prosecution had taken the steps it had so that one court could properly matters. The appellant had stantial reason put before the Crown Court why that court should not deal with that matter.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barriste



EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT: EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR. DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON, E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INGEPENDENT.CO.UK

Prescott is bigger than this farce

THE PRESCOTT saga teeters between broad farce and high drama. This chapter of allegations and investigations is more reminiscent of the dark days of the French Fourth Republic than late Nineties, post-Nolan Britain. Give or take a Spycatcher we simply are not used to this kind of thing. Confusion abounds, as the bemused Humberside Constabulary interview and inquire. It is important to get two things clear.

The first is that Juhn Prescott, in his capacities as Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions has other, much more important fish to fry. Not every newspaper alleganon is worth reading, especially if it is printed in a Sunday with an axe to grind. Meanwhile anyone who travels on the London Underground, together with motorists, lorry drivers and rail users has more pressing concerns. New Labour has some critical decisions to take on the transport infrastructure. The Treasury is signalling hard that Gordon "hair shirt" Brown wants to keep a tight lid on spending. Even if the so-called Golden Rule is applied under which government borrowing should total no more than the government invests, getting capital out of the Treasury is going to he a hard task. Mr Prescott, who is shaping up as one of the Cabinet's most serious players, is the man to put the arguments with force and clarity. Any distraction is unwelcome. The same point applies in force to all those concerned either to get into social housing --accommodation for lower income people provided by councils or housing associations -- or ensure that the existing stock of public housing is maintained. There is a strong case for investment, at least from the financial year commencing 1999; without it housing will fall into disrepair and require costlier attention later. Mr Prescott needs to be fighting fit to make the case.

The second point relates to Kingston upon Hull. It was never, it's true, as depressed as some other coastal cities, despite the decline of deep-sea fishing. But the indices of social deprivation, educational under-attainment and urban decline register strongly for the city. In recent years a concerted effort at reinvection has been made; the city has started to look better; useful local partnerships between public and private sector have been forged. A one-class town (the middle classes tradifionally decamped to the countryside around) is even beginning to attract a more socially diverse population. For Hull's efforts to be side-tracked by the miasma of allegation and investigation would be more than regrettable -- it would delay regeneration and potentially hlight further generations of Hull young people.

A certain degree of worldliness is required. Large-scale housing renewal has been taking place in Hull. If during the course of the process of property acquisition and development not every penny was fully accounted for, receipted and annotated, if not every deal was entirely above board - would that really he worth this kind of atteotion? What other stories emanating from a provincial city get this kind of noise ... again, listen closely and the sound of grinding axes is audible. Meanwhile, in another neck of the woods... Yesterday we reported, on the basis of a National Audit Office report, on the "loss" to the public purse of some £300m in the course of water privatisation and consequent pension arrangements. Nobody, however, is being held responsible. No one is facing court charges. No one is being investigated by police or auditors. Meanwhile in Hull petty sums are in play; huge investigative effort is chasing allegations of mayoral over-indulgence. A sense of proportion is needed.

Someone somewhere appears to be desperately anxious to implicate Mr Prescott and, presumably, discredit him. The early signs are that the effort - if that is what it is - is endearingly English, bumbling and amateur. The very suspicion that the Deputy Prime Minister might be the target of politicking ne'er-do-wells immed He has important work to do on the nation's behalf. The sooner he is able to get on with it, free of distraction, the better.

Buttling for Britain



A COUNTRY, economists tell us, should play to its strengths. And it still seems, after all these years, that one of our national advantages lies below stairs. Britain buttles better. A new school is opening to train butlers for the world. There clearly is a niche in the services market. With the growth of affluence -- generated by people who have less and less time for domestic work themselves -- the demand for at-home services grows and grows. Technology helps but machines do not open doors or serve guests.

Yet the problem with butiers, at least in this country, is the old social class associations -- witness our insatiable enthusiasm for Edwardian costume dramas in which the lower orders still knew their place. Can a hutler buttle in, as it were, a purely functional fashion, without reinforcing the superiurity of his employers and the inferiority of the other servants. Did we say "his"? Surely the new British buttling school should also be aiming to recruit women. Female butters would break the mould, making it more of a general service job than evidence of social status. Women would do a butler's work as well, just as they would make good sommeliers and already make great chefs. In the new service order some shaking up of the genders is long overdue. Traditionally the lower downstairs you get the more female the staffing. In future let's hear it for Mrs Hudson and Mr Bridges.



Man of the hills: a North Wales sheep farmer and his dog on the mountains at sunset

Photograph: Steve Peake

Freeing of McAliskey

YOUR headline "decision to free McAliskey made on political grounds" (11 March) was not even supported by the story beneath it, still less by the truth.

I did not discuss the case with any other minister outside the Home Office, nor did I receive representations from any other minister about what you alleged are wider political implications. I took my decision having considered the representations put forward by Roisin McAliskey's solicitors, having regard to the requirements of the Extradition Act 1989. The material before me-included two detailed medical rea leading forensic psychiatrist retained by the Home Office.

By law, I am required not to return a fugitive if I believe that it would be unjust or oppressive to do so. That was the basis for the decisioo in this case as it was in another case which I also dealt with last weekend (wholly unrelated to any terrorist allegations) where again, onoverwhelming medical evidence, I decided not to order return. I took both decisions carefully, and as is required of me by the 1989 Act.

You were also wrong to imply that I had "waited" hefore making a decision in this case. I received the papers last Friday, read them over the weekend and made and announced my decisioo on Monday. JACK STRAW

Home Secretary Home Office

Internet curbs

IT IS an enigma that the glut of information on the Internet spawns growing paranoia about being starved of this commodity. Jason Burton (letter, 7 March) assumes that rating of content is about reducing the need for government to regulate the Internet, when there is no evidence of it seeking to control legal material. Mr Burton is right to be con-

cerned about any apparent means of restricting the free flow of information. However, in over a year of de-

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

service providers and regulation are not in the sole interests of probeauty of the system we are work. CAROLETONGUE MEP ing on is that it harnesses the tech. (London East, Lab). nology to achieve both. The rating Ilford, Essex of the content is done by its proports, one from the doctors who have ducers, not third parties. The acbeen treating Roisin McAliskey ceptance criteria are set by the user. In fact the system as i

erates (RSACi ratings filtered through Internet Explorer 3) alto set limits for their offspring via password-controlled access. Perour children, but that is my choice. Others are free to choose otherwise. DAVID KERR Chief Executive

Internet Watch Foundation Oakington, Cambridgeshire

Save European TV

SUZANNE MOORE ("Spare the Teletubbies", 11 March) is right to argue that parents should watch more TV with their kids. But she misses a key point: that our children have a right to a whole range of tales from their own society, Europe and the rest of the world. What they are actually able to receive has narrowed, as cable and satellite kids' channels

just recycle imported US animation. This also creates unfair competition with terrestrial channels, who do invest in home-made programmes. These terrestrial channels are coming under increased pressure to cut budgets for lods' programmes, in order to compete. Our kids are told that Europe and the world is their oyster. TV often delivers a different message: the visual diet of a hamburger.

Much can be done - global exchange of programmes; more co-pro-

bate on this issue with governments, duction; a European Kids Channel where we share the best of our probodies around the world, I have not grammes. Most importantly, we must come across any significant views that retain the BBC. Public service broadcasting is the best guarantor still that tecting children and do not value the our kids will broaden their minds, taste free speech of consenting adults. The and interacy while watching the box.

continue to do so. Although the Court of Appeal has reinforced lows adult users to see everything, but Londoo Underground's vendetta against ticket touts ("Ticket touts lose appeal", 7 March), I shall continue sonally I agree with Mr Burton that to give away my traveleards for as we should not be over-protective of loog as the world's most expensive public transport system fails to de-

liver an adequate service. I deeply resent paying the company's usurious levy for the privilege of squeezing myself onto its squalid, filthy, overcrowded trains; for patiently tolerating the "18 minutes to next train" indicator, with no announcement to explain or justify it, for quening for 20 minutes in the morning at the one ticket window that is ever open at my local station when I forget to arrange to have the right change for the automatic machines in my pocket; for philc.ophically accepting that when the last trains fail to connect and I am dumped at a station far from home my travelcard is not valid on the night bus; for tolerating the rudeness of the very few staff ever seen on a station.

Until LUL pulls its socks up the touts have my unreserved backing. DAVID TREVOR-JONES London SW17

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to the driver of the Silverlink Northampton to Euston train that I travelled oo this morning. The train hroke down, and was to sit on the tracks for well over an hour before being shunted to the next station. However, the driver exercise I great skill by ensuring that the train had come to rest in a tunnel.

I wonder if I will ever again enjoy the bliss of sitting on a train for such a length of time and not being subjected to people shouting into their mobile phones. ANDREW J CHISHOLM Northampton

House sales

WITH respect to the proposed reform of estate ageols' practices may wish to consider the procedure here in Norway.

Viewing is publicised for one or two specific time periods, then hidding begins. Bids tend to be time-limited both on the huyer's side and the seller's (you have so many hours to enter a higher hid and the seller has a certain time period to decide whether to accept the hid). All bids are binding. It is also a legal requirement to disclose fully the state of the property, with the agent and seller liable for non-disclosure.

If your bid has been accepted there can be no gazumping. Typical time frames for a sale drop from months in the English system, to weeks, with sales and contracts being confirmed and sealed within days. DAVID MARTIN Oslo, Norway

Defying Murdoch

IN THE matter of Murdoch, HarperCollins, The Times etc. Why not try saying "No"? Many years ago I was instructed by the proprietors of Penguin to cancel 100 cootracts with Penguin authors. I refused. 1 reckon that people in top positions justify their high salaries by taking difficult and risky positions. PETER CALVOCORESSI.

Doom for jazz

JAZZ WAS not KO'd by rock, as asserted by George Russell ("Lydian modes and all that jazz". 7 March). It was KO'd by James Caesar Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians from 1940 until 1958, The two-year-long recording ban he called in 1942 spelled doom for the instrumental star bands, such as those of Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Jimmy Lunceford, Harry James and Artie Shaw, and paved the way for the current dictatorship of the vocalist - they, not being union members, had continued to record.

The coup de grâce was administered by those intellectuals who saw and might therefore be Art. This led to 15-minute bass solos, sheets of (leading article, 5 March), legislators sound, free jazz and other phenomena that only a musician's mother could love.

Wyntoo Marsalis may be misguided in trying to breathe life into the old corpse, but at least his heart is in the right place. As for the Lydian mode, I care oot a jot -nor the Dorian. Hypophrygian nr Paragoric. They don't mean a thing if they ain't got that swing. CLIVEEXTON

London N1

Town and country

PETER DOREY (letter, 5 March) wooders why there was not a Couotryside March uoder the Tory party. If they had introduced a "Foster Bill" against hunting there might well have

I am sick to death of hearing themantra "70 per ceot of people support the ban". That means that 30 per cent do not. This a very large minority to have their views ridden over roughshod by Parliament on a matter which should be for individual conscience.

The Foster Bill has driven an ugly and unnecessary wedge between town and country to neither's beoefit LESLEY ELLIS

Black beasts take a rain check in the ball park of today



tackle all your knotty verbal problems. So here he is, the Dr Johnson de nos jours

Dear Dr Wordsmith, Why, oh why do people Insist on using foreign expressions like *de nos jours"? Why not just say "the Dr Johnson of

Dr Wordsmith writes: There are several reasons why people use foreign expressions. These include arrogance, snobbery, exhibitionism, pedantry, playfulness, superiority and a desire to show that one has had the money to spend time abroad. Nothing wrong with any of these. It's what keeps a pedant like me going. But I also think that there may be an age-old desire to spice our conversation with exotic flavours. As far as meaning goes, nothing is added by saying "comme il faut", "de rigueur" or "de trop". but it certainly adds a little welcome flavour

day our linguistic expert, Dr Wordsmith, to garlic. And remember one very odd thing: we actually get most of our foreign expressions from an English-speaking country! Yes, most foreign phrases come here from the USA, but as the Americans speak another variant of English, it never occurs to us that "taking a rain check" is just as foreign as "Zeitgeist" or "en suite". We talk about ball parks. We have no idea what a ball park is. Dear Dr Wordsmith, What IS a ball park? Dr Wordsmith writes: I have no idea. Incidentally, if you ARE going to use a foreign expression, can I beg you all PLEASE to pronounce it right? I get mightily irritated by all those people who pronounce "macho" and "machismo" as "macko" and "mackismo". They are pronounced "matcho" and "matchismo"! Even the top people get things wrong. The other day on Desert Island Dises Miss Sue Lawley pronounced the Spanish composer Albeniz as "Albenits", cation strand" they will say, or "our drama

... AND IT'S very nice to welcome back to- to our conversation, like slipping in a bit of making him sound like a Pole or Czech. It strand", as if to suggest a strong network of should of course have been more like "AlbAYnith". Pah! Dear Dr Wordsmith, I sometimes get the im-

pression that Sue Lawley is your black beast. Is this so? Dr Wordsmith writes: My WHAT?

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I meant your "bête noire", but I was putting it into English for you. Dr Wordsmith writes: Oh. No, I have no particular animus against Sue Lawley (or should I say "animum", being accusative?) No, my current "bête noire" is the word "strand", a term which has been adopted by the BBC and other media to suggest that they know what they are doing. There are many words like this today, including such dreadful words as "community" and "agenda" and "empowerment" and the even more dreadful "tranche", but "strand" is one particularly adopted by the BBC. "Our edu-

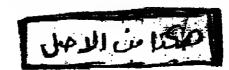
education and drama programmes. Very often it is the opposite. Very often they talk about a "live drama strand" just when live drama is dwindling. But it gets worse than that. One programme in the Radio Times the other day advertised itself as belonging to "the strand that listens". We now have a listening strandl Libby Purves on Midweek the other day started the programme by wondering if there was any strand that linked all the guests. So a strand is just something that joins things together, is it? No, of course it isn't. It is just Libby Purves not thinking about how to use language properly. Perhaps her mind was elsewhere. Perhaps she was planning writing another article defending Rupert Murdoch for The Times ... Dear Dr Wordsmith, Calm down, calm down, old chap! Might I suggest that Libby Purves is another of your "betes noires" Or should I say bugbears?

Dr Wordsmith writes: You may say anything you like, sir, but you will ocver convince me that there is any such thing as a "bugbear". It is a very common mistake, sir, to suppose that because a word exists, therefore the thing exists also. People talk about unicorns, but they never lived. People may talk about the peace process in Northern Ireland, but that is all they can do, for there is no such thing, depend on it.

Dear Dr Wordsmith, Why have you started talking in this strange way?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Why, sir, because I am the Dr Johnson de nos jours. Because, sir, I feel in my bones that the pubs are open and because I think it is time for us to adjourn for the first drink of the day. Cian, sig-

Drunk or sober, Dr Wordsmith will be back again soon to tackle more of your linguistic



THE INDEPENDENT THURSDAY 12 MARCH 1998

As Nato and the EU expand, beware a scowling Russia



CORNWELL

THIS IS A TALE of two enlargements. One, that of the European Union, is being feted today in London. The European Conference it is called, a worthy exercise in summitry, but a somewhat pointless one, alas, given that it was devised above all to humour Turkey, the Union's eternally jilted suitor. But having been jilted yet again last December, Ankara is staying away. So the heads of government of 26 present and aspiring EU members will assemble to deliberate - insofar as it is possible for so many to seriously deliberate in a couple of two-bour sessions either side of a state luncheon at Buckingham Palace - issues of commoo concern, like crossborder crime and the environment.

But no matter, "The meeting is the message" is the amended official catchphrase for the occasion. And, amid the ornate and gilded splendour of Lancaster House, so destructive of the critical faculties, who is to disagree? The enlargement of the EU to the east will be a long and mooumentally complicated task But it is unarguably a Good Thing; an act of historical justice, reknitting a continent unnaturally divided by the Cold War.

Simultaneously, 3,000 miles away and all but unnoticed by the rest of the world, another enlargement - that of Nato to embrace Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary glides softly through the US Congress, Various subcommittees have already given their blessing, almost on the nod, and the full Senate vote to ratify could come within days. And this, as they say, is the bigone. Tony Blair bas promised a separate vote in the Commons, perhaps before the summer recess. But assumiog America gives the lead, do not expect any of the 15 other alliance members to demur. How different is Nato enlargement from EU enlargement: so simple, so quick, and yet of such utterly dubious merit.

Clearly, what is done is done. Having promised at the Madrid summit last July to admit in 1999 the three Visegrad countries, Nato can hardly go back oo its word. But if anything the arguments against expansion have gathered strength since. More obviously than oot that arcane business rendered irrelevant ever, the cart has been put before the horse; "by the collapse of Communism? Far from it. liance before determining what purpose that refusing to endorse the Start-II treaty that alliance serves, now that the threat which brought about its creation no looger exists. Yet the country responsible for that vanished threat still exists. And in a different way it hands. Because of Nato, Moscow is less likely matters as much as ever.

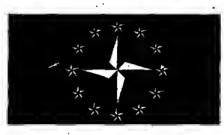
The Soviet Union and the Cold War may be no more. Russia, shorn of its internal and external empires, may be desperately weak and sequences of leaving Russia out. There are its military a shambles; in no condition to pose good reasons for the EU to keep Turkey in cither an economic nor a military threat - in the cold, and the price to pay may be small. the sense such threats are usually understood In the case of Nato and Russia, however, the - to its oeighbours for years, probably decades. reasons are threadbare, and the price could In the short term, however, that very weak- be terribly high.

uess brings its own dangers; while in the longer run nothing, not even the eastward expansion of the EU, is more important for us than the forging of a stable, democratic Russia. On both

counts, Nato expansion makes matters worse. Rule one of successful diplomacy is to understand the mind of your opposite number, and do nothing to humiliate him. Crucial to understanding Russia is acceptance of its "defensive paranoia". Tell that to the former "socialist allies" of the old Warsaw Pact, it will be objected; and logically it may be absurd that the largest country on earth, still possessing the largest nuclear arsenal, should be worried by "encirclement". But how easy international relations would be if logic alone guided countries' behaviour.

Russians - at least the powerful nationalist faction, most mimical to the Western notion of democracy - are all too easily convinced everyone else is ganging up on them. Ultimately, the Poles, the Czechs and the Hungarians see membership as protection against a Russian invasion. From its end of the telescope however, Moscow merely sees forward units of the old enemy creeping still closer to its western border. In its present reduced state, Russia has been obliged to accept expansion with as good a grace as it can muster. But deeds,

not words, are a better gauge of its feelings. Despite (or more accurately, because of) its present difficulties, Russia cannot be ignored. Take foreign currency. Russia is always



short of it, and the goods best able to secure it are arms. Hence Moscow's perfectly understandable desire to keep in with past and potential future customers such as Iran and Iraq, whatever the US might think. It does not seem to have dawned on Washington or London that haste on expanding Nato might have bought greater Russian pressure to bear on Saddam Hussein - certainly a more vital concern for the West than a putative security danger for some countries in central Europe, at best many years down the line. Or take Kosovo, where Russian resistance, with a veto in the UN Security Council to back it up, deprives sanctions against Slobodan Milosevic of their sharpest teeth. Then there is the small matter of nuclear

arms control. Arms control, you will say, was sion has been taken to expand an al- Because of Nato, the Russian Parliament is would halve its stockpile of nuclear weapons - in other words balve the number of Russian weapons that might end up in the wrong to ask the US to assist in preventing nuclear proliferation, be it of materials, technology, or the scientists themselves. Such are the con-

Ashes to ashes and dust to dust a waking dream in an Irish hospital

Come with John Walsh to his mother's bedside, where strange things are going on. Then sample his views on Quentin Tarantino -

IVE SPENT the past couple of weeks in an Irish hospital, attending to my stricken mother, and amid the deluge of flowers and holy water shakers, the metallic forest of drips and inhalers, the procession of kindly visitors and beaming owns, I have found myself oodding off in the afternoons; my head achingly flattened against the side of a cloth-ing cabinet like an exhausted horse going to sleep against the wall of its stall. But even in this somnolent posture, I've had a recurring dream, the same one that invades my nights with a weird filmie clarity. The odd thing about this dream is that, for all its surreal quality, it isn't a construct of the imagination; it happened.

Come back with me two weeks, to a Wednesday morning when, as I sat by her bedside, a male nurse appeared by my side, bearing a little bowl full of ashes. He could have been a sales rep from the offices of Mr Boffin, the dust millionaire in Dickens's Our Mutual Friend, but he wasn't. From the bowl he flourished a metal plunger, the kind you might once have seen stamping out hibrary books. "Would she," be enquired of the slumbering figure in the bed, "like some of the ash?" I regarded him coldly. My mother, I pointed out, is seriously ill. She has no immediate need of a memento mori, thank you very much. In fact it's pretty tactless ...

Without ado, he dunked the plunger into the ashes and stabbed a back cross on my mother's innocent forehead. An Arizona cowpoke branding a heifer would have been more subtle. My jaw dropped. "Now," said the ourse, with a camp little flourish, "Would you like some verself?" This was a tricky one. Would I like to have my bead anointed with graveyard grit by a hospital orderly? Father Jack would have told him to feck off. "I'll try and get by without it," I weedily replied. Later I went for a walk down the

hospital corridor. A couple of sweet young ourses, barely out of their teens, appeared, their forcheads streaked with ash. From the Male Patients' Toilet an elderly amputee emerged, similarly engrimed. More and more of them appeared. The girls preparing lunch in the kitchen, the visiting relatives having a crafty fag by the window, the tiny children bringing a posy of snowdrops for their poorly Auntie Bridget - all of them bore the same ashy mark of Cain like a nasty prize. Even the divine Ward Sister, pausing for a chat aboot my mother's progress, had a perfect dusty cross oo her brow like the crosshairs on a huge gun. They scemed to be milling together, to be heading towards me. It was like The Night of the Living Dead.

prejudices where we please.

you disproved (tobacco indus-

try) or a piece of manipulative



and apparently shot on yellowing film stock

I fled, took the lift, rushed to the ground floor café for a dose of normality among the muffins and Lucozade bottles and the oon-ill, oon-nursing outsiders, the ones who, like me, couldn't get out of a hospital fast enough. And blow me down if they, too, badn't all been nobbled by the disorderly orderly. Young and old, cool Galway babes and rosary-toting matrons alike, demure local beauties and scraggy itinerants sbooting the breeze over their poly- respectfully what His Wonderfulness was styrene cups, were all emblazoned with up to; Film 98 has cleared the decks for

that's what you do in Ireland at the be-

ginning of Lent, as surely as you wear

I stood in the tea queue feeling (para-

doxically in the circumstances) like a

marked man. In the plague years of the

Middle Ages, I mused, weren't they keen

on black crosses too? Only in those days,

they were daobed on the doors of

doomed houses, warning you not to go

oear them. I seemed to have stumbled

into a plague scene in 1998, in which

oone of the victims is the least bit both-

ered about their condition. And in this

recurring dream of mine, all the victims

are turning quizzical expressions towards

my pale, un-ashed forehead, and the

look on their faces says: You? Why d'you

think you're different?

a spring of shamrock on March 17.

QUENTIN TARANTINO - loathe him or ignore him, you can't like him. Or escape him. The most celebrated wunderkind of American cinema since Orsoo Welles is currently featured in every magazine in the known world, and the stars of his new movie Jackie Brown have apparently bought squatters' rights on the feature pages of the British press. Le tout Londres artistique piled into the National Film Theatre recently to ask

'Jackie Brown' is dull, prosaic, murky, gauche, of racial insult. meandering, wilfully undramatic, far too long

the remembrance of death - because it a solo interview; and be appears, parodwas, of course, Ash Wednesday, and ically holding a gun to his scrunched-up features, on the cover of Sight and Sound, the last redoubt of sense and taste for the intelligent cineaste. He is, basically, God. So why do I get this burning desire to rush off to Los Angeles and give him a good kicking?

I) Because Jackie Brown is dull, prosaic, murky, gauche, meandering, wilfully undramatic, far too long, and apparently shot on yellowing film stock from the Seventies, and I paid \$6.50 to see it.

2) Because everyone is excited about Tarantino's "rediscovery" of the actress Pam Grier, variously described as "the blaxploitation diva" and "the Seventies goddess". Uotil about a month ago, nobody had actually heard of Ms Grier or seen any of ber films.

3) Because Samuel L Jackson, in-

terviewed in the Observer, remarks of his character, the homicidal black gangsterpimp Ordell Rohbie: "Quentin said all along he was writing Ordell for me, but he said that he lived with Ordell for so long that be wrestled with the idea of doing it himself." But Taranono didn't write Ordell at all; Ordell was the creation, lock, stock and barrel, of Elmore Leonard in Rum Punch, published five years ago.

4) Because of Tarantino's curious desire to mutate into a black man. "I went to an all-black school," he tells Total Film magazine. "It's the culture I identify with." But be identifies with it mainly, it seems, as a way of sharing the culture

Critics are worried about the number of times his black characters use the word "nigga" in Jackie Brown, but he's always been over-keen oo trans-racial demotic. In Pulp Fiction, he plays a (white) friend of the black hitman Jules and gets away with saying thiogs like, "Jules, when you drove in here did you notice a sign out froot that said 'Dead Nigger Storage'?" In The Remunce. which he wrote but dign't direct, you find a white drug dealer, played by Gary Oldman, who speaks in Rasta-man slang someone with whom Tarantino can idiotically identify.

5) Because his dialogue isn't as wonderful as he thinks. Here's a sample: "Look, I hate to be the kinda nigga does a nigga a favour then BAM! hits a nigga up for a favour in return. But I'm afraid I gotta be that kinda nigga ...' Mr Tarantino tells his admiring public, "I think that in my dialogue there's a music or poetry, and the repetition of certain words helps give it a beat." In your dreams, Quentin.

Don't let the facts get in the way of a good prejudice



PAUL VALLELY

Opinionitis is breaking out all over. But Keats offers a remedy

Do what? Well, if you have to ask that you're on the wrong page. This is Comment, not News. And facts are, after all, oothing more than a preparation for opinion. So did John Prescott do it?

Me, I'm, predisposed to think be didn't. After all, he seems a decent kind of bloke. So if you can offer me any facts which speak to that predisposioon. I'm open to them. Otherwise not.

What we need, said Dickens's utilitarian petit-capitalist, Mr Gradgrind, is facts, facts, facts. That was his opinion, at any rate. I'm not so sure be was right. Has the Deputy Prime Minister been mired in the corruption being investigated by

SO DID John Prescott do it? the police in the local council at Hull? Or is it just a vendetta against him launched by disaffected members of Old Labour?

The thing is, that's oot the really interesting issue. After all, corruption and vendetta are minority pastimes. But coming to an opinion is something we all do on a daily, if oot an hourly, basis - and then we happily repeat what suits us without bothering to check the basis of the assumption. Nothing new in that, you might say. Most newspapers are built oo reinforcing a worldview and conveniently rejecting those bits of reality which do not oeatly fit.

Sometimes, of course, blind faith is a good thing. What parent could reject the dying wish of a son about to be hanged.

propaganda (health lobby)? Is "Clear my oame," said James Hanratty on the eye of his exethe beef-on-the-bone ban a cution. Whatever the doubts sensible precaudeo (Min of DNA evidence has thrown up Ag) or an intrusion into perthis week it would be an odd fasonal liberty (butchers and ther who did not persist in the caterers)? 36-year campaign to protest his Facts do not help here. Inson's mnocence. But the rest of

deed the more we read the more confused we become. us can now safely slide Hanratty into our portfolios of political Stories of disgusting abattoirs - or of young women dying Opinionitis requires that we horrible deaths-from the BSE take a stance oo a fair oumber inquiry load the anecdotal cards of things in today's news alone. against beef in a way that Intensive farming: does the boring old risk analysis never can. Being told that there is only heavy use of nitrates provide cheap food for everyone (farm one v-CJD death for every 25 lobby) or risk poisoning the nation with its residues (conmillioo beefsteaks eaten does not somehow have the same sumer watchdog)? Is the notion emotional pull. that passive smoking is bad for

In the face of all this I am This is counter-cultural these you must feel free to disagree.

was. Wheo the Scottish empiricist David Hume went to visit Voltaire and Co in France he returned shocked by their atheism. A philosopher could be, indeed in professional terms had to be, an agnostic, be insisted; to he an atheist is as much a faith statement as to believe in God, in epistemological terms, that is,

But let us oot get caught up in such certainty when mild scepticism is an option. Keats had the right idea when be advocated Negative Capability the condition "when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact trying hard oot to take a view. or reason". But then, of course,



KNIGHTSBRIDGE insiders predict that Mohamed al Payed may once again defy conventionality if the Government refuses to give him a British passport. That is, he may go travelling and take a permanent holiday from the UK. There has already been press speculation about whether he could be tempted to sell Harrods. Surely there would be no lack of interested buyers. But where would al Fayed set up his new home? Paris once appeared to be the logical destination; he owns the Duke of Windsor's house and could keep closer tabs on the Ritz. But that was before the French judge brusquely summoned him to appear in Paris today in order to expand on his conspiracy theories. Last week the New York Post speculated that al Fayed might move to the Big Apple. Our sources point out that Mohamed used to own a lease on part of Rockefeller Center and keeps a permanent



er Ali bas just opened a sleek branch of Turnbull & Asser io midtown Manhottan and lives in a sprawling waterfront estate in Conoecticut, complete with all the rich man's toys, including a new private yacht and jet. Could Mohamed adjust his Park Lane lifestyle to NYC's rough and tumble, hard-living fast lane? Does a bagel have a hole in the middle?

suite at the Pierre Hotel. His broth-

for the press releases they bung of rugby to comb his hair at half-time". through our fax machines. The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post news they've established a pay telephone line which charges "\$2 for the first minute, \$1 for each additional minute" and is connected to a fax machine. Which UK newspaper will be the first to introduce this wooderful

AS THE FEUD continues between member clubs, word has reached Pandora of the ultimate in sporting insults. Cliff Brittle, millionaire chairman of the RFU, is a dapper man who has never made much fuss about his achievements as a rugby player at Stoke on Trent. Now the word circulating around the clubs is that "Brit- Humprhey Bogart.

definitely arrived: charging PR firms the was the only player in the history WHAT DOES Piers Pottinger look like?

AN AMERICAN air hostess named service has announced that it now bins Diana Benson has been blabbing dodging the news cameras. Whenever any and all unsolicited PR fax mes- on the Internet about the celebrity sages. If you wish to avoid this fate, passengers she served wheo she worked for the now defunct MGM Grand airlines. Back in the decadent Eighties, opulent MGM Grand was the only way to fly, darling, on the "milk run" from LA to NY and back. Julia Roberts, OJ Simpson, Eddie Murphy: Diana has a tale to tell about them all.

She is particularly rude about supplya photothe Rugby Football Union and its Lauren Bacall, accusing ber of hogging the caviar and of being keen to receive celebrity bomage from the young hostesses. "Do you know who I am? I am Lauren Bacall," the actress is quoted as saying. "The Lauren Bacall. accompanying snap with anyone who I was married to Humphrey Bogart. The Humphrey Bogart." Oh, that

Since he became Mohamed al Fayed's replacement for departed Harrods PR flak Michael Cole, Pottinger has been the PR man's name appears in print, it

effacing" or "unseco". Not long ago, The Times was forced to ask its readers if they could graph of Potty, who is Sir Tim

carries adjec-

tives like "self-

Bell's partner. Ever willing to oblige, Pandora is happy to share the might be interested.

Pandora

MPC division sends pound soaring

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

THE POUND soared on the foreign exchanges yesterday after the Bank of England revealed that only the casting vote of Eddie George, its Governor, had prevented a rise in interest rates last month.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Cummittee (MPC) was evenly split, four-four, on whether or not the cost of borrowing ought to rise, having voted five-three against a rise in January. Mervyn King, the deputy governor in charge of economics, switched sides in February, forcing the Governor to use his casting vote.

Minutes of last week's MPC meeting will not be published until April, but as the Bank took no action, the committee almost certainly remained split.

The news sent the pound more than two pfennigs higher to DM3.02, while the sterling index against a range of currencies climbed 0.5 to 106.1, This was its highest since last July.

Some analysts stuck to the view that there would turn out to be no need for a further interest rate increase. Figures this week showing manufacturing output in the doldrums lent support to their view that the economy is slowing fast enough to keep inflation on target.

The Engineering Employers' Federation, publishing its Budget submission yesterday, pleaded for a halt to the policy tightening. It said that rates did not need to climb any further, adding: "Economic manage- Changing sides: Mervyn ment should ... endeavour as far King joined the hawks

the very fact that the Bank was delaying a necessary increase was to blame for the jump in the exchange rate. "They have impaled themselves on the fence," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist at Paribas. "The continued expectation of a policy tightening is what is keeping the

pound strong." The minutes published yesterday suggested that the two camps on the committee had moved further apart last month. Each side put forward several arguments in favour of their preferred course of action.

The bawks -- Alan Budd, Willem Buiter and Charles Goodhart, along with Mr King said domestically generated



as possible to reverse the rise in inflation was running too high for the 2.5 per cent inflation target to be hit once the nne-off effect of the strong pound on

import prices had worn off. They also emphasised the risk of accelerating pay growth, and pointed out that the Bank's "Inflation Report" had shown the underlying inflation measure climbing above its target by late next year.

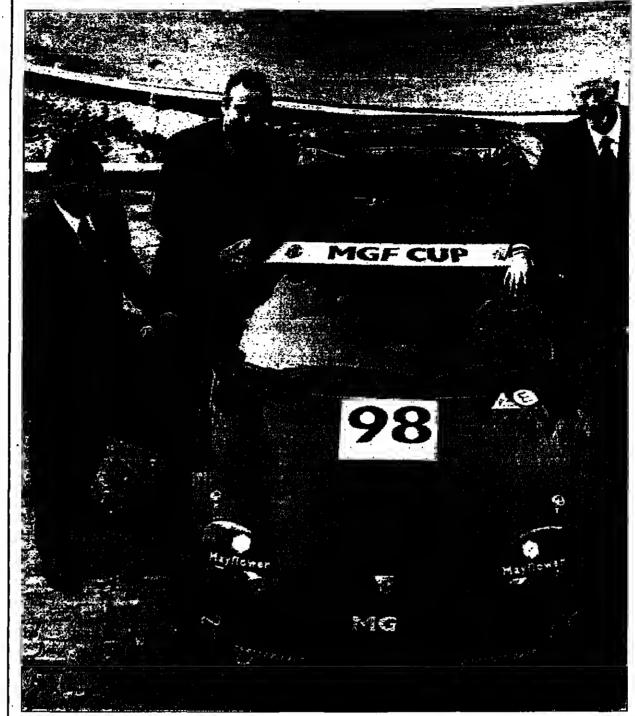
Failing to raise interest rates at a time when the central projection of inflation two years ahead was above target would risk damaging the credibility of the MPC process," the minutes report them arguing.

On the other hand, the doves -- Mr George, David Clementi, DeAnne Julius and Ian Plenderleith - said there were clear signs growth had begun to slow. In addition, the economic picture was too uncertain to justify an immediate increase. It would be better to wait and see what happened over the next few months.

They too had an argument based on credibility - that it would be damaged if a rate rise now had to be reversed before long because of a sbarper than expected downturn.

But one factor that did boost the MPC's credibility was the fact that the internal Bank members had not all voted together. Although both Mr George and Mr King had earlier given firm assurances that the four Bank executives did not vote as a block, February's split was the first demonstration of this independent-mindedness.

Outlook, page 25



THE MAYFLOWER TEAM, led by chief executive John Simpson (far right), who yesterday sold the seatbelt webbing business, Ribbons of South Wales, to a management buy-out for £6.5m. Mayflower has decided to concentrate on its main businesses, Ribbons has developed a new high-performance seat belt webbing called Autoflex, which is already being used by Ford in the latest Mondeo models. The product has also attracted interest from German car manufacturers.

The management team, led by managing director Godfrey Codrington, technical director Wayne Morse and finance director David Edwards, are investing a 'significant' stake. Venture capital group Gresham Trust and Royal Bank of Scotland are providing the rest. Ribbons is expecting to grow quickly in the next five years driven by Autoflex, new seatbelt regulations and strong demand in eastern Europe. The company also plans to expand its range of different seatbelt colours.

Compass replaces **Dixons** in FTSE reshuffle

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

COMPASS, the fast-growing catering group was promoted to the FTSE-100 index of leading shares yesterday after the quarterly meeting of the FTSE Actuaries committee.

Compass replaces electrical retailer Dixons Group, which drops out after falling to be ranked Britain's 121st largest-listed company by market value as at the close on 10 March.

The company will ufficially start trading as a blue chip stock on 23 March.

Misys, the computer software company, had been tipped for inclusion but missed out by one

Misys, which is the 92ndlargest group, remains on the reserve list for inclusion in the FTSE 100 at the next quarterly review on June 10. The others are TI Group, the engineer, Northern Rock, the demutualised building society, Southern Electric Plc, the utility, Provident Financial, the credit group and RMC Group, the building materials company.

Among changes to the FTSE 250 index of next-tier companies. Body Shop International, whose shares are close to a five-year low, was excluded.

In the FISE 250 and FISE 350, Yule Catto & Co, FI Group, More Group, WS Atkins Group, Shire Pharmaccuticals, Parity and Merchants Trust are all included. The Committee also approved

he inclusion of the new issues Monsoon and Cortecs PLC in the FTSE

SmallCap & FTSE All-share with effect from 23 March

The Misys, which provides computer software to banks and insurance companies and was only founded nine years ago, now lies just outside the top 100 and just missed out on becoming the first information technology to join the blue chip list.

The changes in membership of the FTSE-100, or Footsie as it is known among the City fraternity, reflect the shifting patterns in the UK economy.

The overwhelming trend is a shift towards fast growing and often youthful services companies and away from the declining traditional manufacturing groups which were such powerful stock market performers in the mid-1980s

Listings to die for, page 18 Outlook, page 25

BA-American deal

By Michael Harrison in London and Katherine Butler

THE EUROPEAN Commission is set to approve the longawaited transatiantic alliance between British Airways and American Airlines in the next two weeks, paving the way for a new open skies agreement between the UK and US.

Karel Van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, is

The consumer products giant Unilever yesterday said it would seek an immediate suspension of a EC ruling outlawing its refusal to allow other ice-cream makers to share its freezer cabinets. The roling applies only to Unilever's Irish subsidiary HB Ice Cream and follows a sevenyear battle by the US foods group Mars to permit shopkeepers to stock its products in Unilever cabinets. The Commission said Unilever was abusing its dominant position in Ireland, where it supplied more than 85 per cent of ice cream.

expected to brief the Council of Ministers on the conditions be has laid down for allowing the deal to proceed at n meeting next Wednesday. The Commission is expected to give its formal approval at n meeting a week later on 23 March.

Clearance for the BA-AA

tic-up will allow London and Washington to complete negotintions on an agreement to liberalise transatlantic air services, even though Brussels ruled yesterday that such bilateral deals contravene EU law.

The Commission sent a "reasoned opinion" to eight member states, including Britain, saying that the bilateral agreements infringed EU law. The member states have two months to respond, after which Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, is like ly to take them to the European Court of Justice. The other member states are Germany, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg.

Mr Kinnock has been seeking wider powers to negotiate EU-wide agreements with the US, arguing that the present bilateral deals give US carriers access to national markets in Europe without allowing European carriers equal access to the domestic American market.

A spokesman for the UK government last night rejected the EU's ruling, saying: "We are confident we are legally entitled to negotiate bilaterally with the US and we are continuing with those negotiations."

Although no formal talks have been held for almost a year now, informal discussions between nfficials have taken place in the US in the last few weeks.

Brussels set to bless BAT warns of threat to £225bn US tobacco settlement

BAT, the cigarette and financial services giant, yesterday warned that the American tobacco industry's \$370bn (£225bn) compensation settlement was in danger of collapse.

The deal only bad a 50-50 chance of being adopted by the US Congress, it said.

Martin Broughton, BAT's cbief executive cautioned tbat if Congress failed to adopt the proposals by November, when elections are

FOSTERS Trading Company,

the menswear retailer which was

founded in 1876, was placed in

administration yesterday after

its bankers said they were no

longer able to provide adequate

The collapse threatens 1,700

jobs and it seems certain that

will be closures among the

group's 175 high street outlets.

The company blamed the trend

towards sportswear and brand-

ed goods which have affected

sales of its denim and casual-

wear ranges. A disappointing

Christmas and a deteriorating

By Nigel Cope

City Correspondent

financial support.

Fosters placed in adminstration

after banks withdraw support

due to take place, the "momentum" of the current discussions would be lost, potentially derailing the chances of an agreement for

Mr Broughton also hinted that BAT would walk away from the deal if Congress tried to impose stiffer financial penalties on the industry. We see no need, or much

front settlement for the in-

scope for flexibility," be said. If the deal goes abead BAT will put aside \$1.7bn this year as part of a \$10hn up

market persuaded the bank to

call for a review of operations.

The directors then applied for

and last year recorded a loss of

from a management buy-out from Sears in 1992. It was led

by managing director David

been appointed administrators.

They are planning a rationali-

sation programme and a three-

month review. David Gilbert, a

partner at BDO, said: "We are

optimistic that our proposals will

belp transform the business."

BDO Stoy Hayward bas

Fosters has significant debts

The company was formed

an administration order.

£2.1m on sales of £95m.

Carter Johnson.

£258m provision to cover to-

arette prices.

The group was also forced to put aside £85m at its were also hit by the fision mis-selling scandal, 'caused profits to slump to

dustry, and will pay billions of bringing its total provision to pounds over the next 25 years £197m. The plan to split off its fifunded by a sharp rise in cig-

nancial services arm to form BAT chose No Smoking a new company with Zurich, Day to announce a 28 per the Swiss insurance group, this autumn will cost £266m, cent fall in profits to £1.8bn during 1997. The figures were about £40m more than exmarred by almost £800m of pected due to the cost of reexceptional costs including a structuring the groups debts and mounting advisers fees. hacco legal settlements in The strength of sterling

knocked another £154m off profits. BAT's tohacco prof-

cigarettes in the region remains subdued. The results disappointed the market, sending the

£309m (£356m). Demand for

shares down 20p to 631p and wiping more than £626m off its market value. BAT is continuing a

strategic review of its Eagle Star insurance business where is has already cut 1,000 staff last year, Parts of the operation may now be sold, although BAT said it would Allied Dnnhar for the pen- nancial crisis in Asia which not dispose of the whole

Cruickshank urges telecoms overhaul

By Peter Thal Larsen

Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, yesterday called for a fundamental overhaul of the communications industry which would involve abandoning the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Acts and replacing them with a broader set of general rules.

In a speech delivered to an audience of telecoms specialists, Mr Cruickshank pointed out the rapid convergence of telecoms, media and information technology and argued they would have to be regulated very differently in future if the UK was to keep its leading position in the telecom and creative in-

He suggested that individual broadcast and telecoms licenses should be replaced by a system of "general authorisation" where companies would be allowed to operate unhindered provided it adhered to a set of special rules.

He also argued that the system which requires ITV and Channel 5 to provide a certain amount of public service broadcasting was "rapidly becoming unenforceable" and should be dropped so that the channels could "compete nn a level playing field with other commercial

Meanwhile, he said the licence fee should be linked to the costs of making programmes so that the BBC could is due to submit evidence on the

continue to hold its own against

the commercial broadcasters. It is the first time that Mr Cruickshank, who steps down as director-general of Oftel at the end of the month, has publicly outlined his views on the regulation of the rapidly changing communications industry.

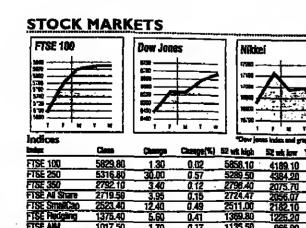
The speech, which is effectively Mr Cruickshank's swansong, will fuel the debate about whether Oftel, which is charged with regulating the telecom industry, should be merged with the Independent Television Commission, which controls broadcasting standards, to create a super-regulator. Although Mr Cruickshank refused to address the issue specifically, he

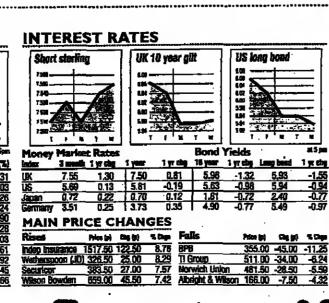
subject to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee next week.

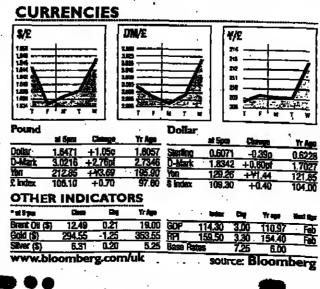
In the past, Mr Cruickshank bas argued that the regulation of hroadcasting "content" and the means in which that content is delivered should be separated. However, be appears to have changed his mind.

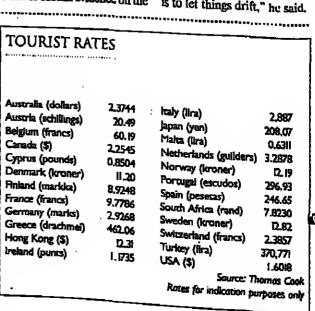
"The present regulatory structure is creaking, with overlaps between regulators and rules which don't quite map on to the new communications () world," Mr Cruicksbank said.

He warned that a failure to simplify the structure would scare off investors and hamper the growth of new industries. "The one option we can't take is to let things drift," he said.











OUTLOOK ON THE SPLIT OVER INTEREST RATES. DANGERS IN THE . FOOTSIE AND WHY KINNOCK'S THREATS WILL COME TO NOUGHT

Why not get it over with; raise interest rates

ALL creatures with feathers are equal, but some are more - equal than others. Eddie George's casting vote on behalf of the Bank of England's doves meant the hawks lost the argument in February, and presumably in March as well, even though Mervyn King, the highly respected deputy governor, flew over to the other side.

To close followers of Mr King's work during his years as the Bank's chief economist, and now deputy governor designate, the surprise was that he had ever found himself on the dovish side of the argument in the first place. He was the architect of inflation targeting and has as good a claim as any individual to the success of inflation policy over the past five years. If his economics team at the Bank - which has been erring on the optimistic side in its forecasts - predicted inflation rising above target within two years, he could always be expected to favour higher interest

Mr King, and a majority of the professional economists on the committee, see the inflation target as their overriding priority. The bankers - joined by DeAnne Julius, an economist from business - are giving more weight to other factors, like the pain being suffered by industry as the man-

ufacturing sector grinds to a halt. This is a judgement on which commentators are just as divided as the MPC, and it is a genuinely difficult call because the economy is so self evidently past its peak. Undoubtedly the economy is cooling. The question is how fast it is slowing, which is much more difficult to answer than

whether it is slowing.

It is an open secret around Whitehall that one outsider, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wishes the Bank would raise rates one more time and get it over with, rather than prolonging the uncertainty. A quarter point increase would do little direct harm to businesses or homebuyers and might do a lot of indirect good if it succeeded in persuading the financial markets that UK rates would clamb no further.

As things stand, the MPC's flock of . dithering doves is making it harder for the Chancellor to justify his claim that the days of boom and bust are decisively over. Our gentle feathered friends in Threadneedle Street would still rather take long-term risks with inflation than risk short-term unpopularity with manufacturers.

The problem with the FTSE 100

THE ELEVATION of Compass, the contract catering group, to the FTSE100, is a better choice of constituent than another bank, but the fact remains that the index has become a curiously unrepresentative and quite dangerous yardstick of stock market behaviour and activity. Banking and other financial services already account for more than 30 per cent of the index, and with Northern Rock hovering on the brink of inclusion, that looks destined to rise even further.

Pharmaceuticals account for another 12.5 per cent of the index. What with all

that consolidation, privatisation and conversion, the Top 100 have come to represent more than three-quarters of the value of the entire stock market. In itself, this is indicative of a worrying imbalance in the UK economy. One of Britain's biggest ecoonmic weaknesses is that though it has its fair share of leading world class companies, it is deficient in small to medium sized enterprise. There can be no more graphic an illustration of this failing that the FTSE 100. The size of the index and the dominance of just two sectors is

As a result, the time may have come for FTSE International, which runs these things, to have a bit of a rethink and look at ways of modifying the monster they have created. In spite of a recent return to form by the mid-caps, the gap between the Premier division of companies and the rest continues to widen. With so many tracker funds now in operation; promotion to the blue-chip ranks now provides a rocket boost not all the constituents deserve. Conversely, relegation is an ever more painful experience - worse even than a Premier League football club losing all that Sky TV money when they plunge into Nationwide

also distorting investment patterns.

The whole thing is in any case turning into a self-perpetuating spiral. Since Footsie performs better than the market as a whole, more and more investors are turning from active fund management to FTSE 100 trackers. As a consequence more and more money gets pushed into the FTSE. This is not mere intellectual con-

We may even be witnessing an investment bubble in the making.

FTSE International says the index was set up to represent the largest companies. The index therefore simply reflects what is going on in the real economy. Industries that are consolidating, like banks and pharmaceuticals, become more significant constituents, while others that are following the demerger trend, like conglomerates and retailers, drop out.

All the same, there is plainly cause for concern here. The boffin fund managers, brokers and actuarial consultants who make up the indices committee should put some wet towels on their beads and do some thinking.

Hot air over open skies

THE EUROPEAN Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, has been engaged in a doglight with member states for the last three years over their right to sign bilateral "open skies" agreements with the US governing transatiantic air services.

The Commission believes that Europe gives too much away and gets too little in renum each time one of these deals is agreed. Overly dominant US carriers get yet more access to Europe while their own skies, the biggest single aviation market in the world, main closed to European carriers.

Let us negotiate European Union-wide agreements on behalf of all member

jecture. There's plenty of evidence of it. states and we will fly back from the US with a much better deal, goes the Kinnock ar-

> A growing number of member states do not agree. They regard decisions about who may take-off and land from their buh airports - a highly lucrative right - as the province of national governments. Mr Kinnock retorts that since Europe is now a single aviation market it should negotiate as

The reality, however, is that it remains a market carved up by flag carrying airlines from each member state, all of whom guard their territory fiercely. Side by side with each new open skies bilateral comes an alliance pact between the relevant European flag carrier and one of the big US airlines.

Mr Kinnock has now run out of natience and has sent a "reasoned" opinion to the UK and seven other member states ruling that such agreements infringe EU law. The member states have two months in study the ruling before Mr Kinnock drags them off in the European Court of Justice.

Unfortunately, both he and they know that it will take at least three years before the court delivers its verdict, by which time the borse will almost certainly have bolted. The UK, for instance, is on the point of signing an open skies pact with the US which is tied to approval of the British Airways-American Airlines alliance. This will allow five more US carriers into Heathrow but only one new UK carrier across the Atlantic, Mr Kinnock knows he is running out of time. He's making a lot of noise but probably to not much effect.

IMF performs U-turn over Indonesian currency board

By Mary Dejevsky Washington

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) has effected a sharp policy U-turn over Indonesia, softening its conditions for providing aid and lifting objections to the formation of a currency board that would peg the Indonesian rupiah to the US dollar. The policy change emerged from remarks by Stanley Fischer, the IMF's deputy managing dir tor, just hours after President Subarto had been elected for a seventh five-year term amid continuing unrest in Indonesia.

There is reason for flexibility." Mr Fischer told a news conference in Washington, stressing that the IMF was "mindful of the potential tragic consequences of events taking place in Indonesia" and the major humanitarian problems that could be arising there". He said that a currency board could work, perbaps in six months' time "if the right conditions are met".

nent

oms overha

Mr Fischer's remarks appeared to pave the way for the IMF to reverse its decision to delay the next tranche of aid for Indonesia. It bad announced only last week that a \$3bn (£1.81bn) payment initially scheduled for mid-March would

he delayed at least until April. The shift in policy could not have been made without the endorsement of the US Treasury. which is the main contributor to the IMF and has led calls for thorough economic reforms in Indonesia as a condition for



President Suharto's plans to peg the rupiah have been backed by an US economist

international aid. The content and tone of Mr Fischer's remarks contrasted with the fierce warnings against stubbornness and backsliding that have emanated from Washington in recent weeks.

Mr Fischer's remarks also defused a very embarrassing disagreement between a body of opinion that included the US administration and the IMF, and one of Washington's main South-east Asian allies and a

senior US academic economist who is retained by President Suhartn as economic adviser. The economist, Steve Hanke from Johns Hopkins University, strongly supported the formation of a currency board as a means of stabilising the Indonesian currency and energetically argued his view in the

The IMF had objected tn the proposal from the time it was first proposed by President

US media.

Subarto a month ago, saying that Indnnesia was unt yet ready for a rigid currency

The rupiah rose on international currency markets yesterday following the more conciliatory time from the IMF. A high-level Indonesian economic delegation is expected in Washington shortly to discuss international assis tance with IMF and US nfficials.

Schroders tries to play down bid rumours

SCHRODERS, one of the few remaining independent UK investment banks, yesterday tried to play down the takeover speculation that has swirled around the stock in recent months.

Speaking at the presentation ' of the group's annual results, Win Bischoff, Schroders' chairman, said: This business suits us very well. We think we can go forward under the same independent ownership. We doo't believe we need to merge with anyooe, either in investment banking or asset management."

Mr Bischoff said the bank

over offers. However, he did hint at informal offers, saying: "People talk to us and tell us bow wonderful our business is -which, I suppose, is an implied approach."

The bank also made attempts to counter recent criticism of its fund management arm. David Salisbury, bead of asset management, said: "We do not believe we are losing market share." He added Schroders had maintained its position as the leading UK fund manager. On Thesday, the Combined

Actuarial Performance Services (Caps), which analyses performance in the fund manthe big four fund managers -Schroders, Gartmore, PDFM and MAM - for underperformance during 1997. Taken together, the four firms produced returns of 14.9 per cent, compared with the industry average for discretionary funds of 15.6 per cent.

Schroders unveiled pre-tax profits for the year to December of £245m, an increase of just 3 per cent. Before Asian provisions, however, pre-tax profits were £277m, an increase of

The bank posted Asian provisious of £32m, of which £24m represented provisions against osure on banking and tradhad received no formal take- agement industry, criticised ing books. Schroders said it had Investment column; page 26

been "very prudent" and boped that it would not bave to make further provisions.

The remaining Asian provisions - totalling £8m - represented the costs incurred when Schroders rescaled its Asian businesses earlier this year, a move which cost 220 emplayees their jobs.

Peter Sedgwick, deputy chairman and bead of investment banking, said he did not anticipate any further restructuring of Asian investment banking. He said: "We felt we should take one look and take one hard hit."

Schroders' shares finished the day down 63p at 2332p.

Rentokil on alert for an acquisition

By Andrew Yates

RENTOKIL Initial, the business services group, yesterday said that it was on the look-out for a substantial acquisition after once again reaching its target of 20 per cent earnings and profits growth in 1997.

Sir Clive Thompson, the group's chief executive said: Now the acquisition of BET has been integrated we have the management

management capacity to consider other opportunities. We also have the finances, gencrating £2tkm of cash per annum which means we will paying off our debts within two

Analysis believe that Rentokil has ISS, the Scandinavian services group, in its sights. Rentokil is also believed to have run a slide rule over Compass, the catering group. However the recent rise in its share price, which saw the group burst into the FTSE 100 yesterday, makes an imminent bid creasingly unlikely.

Sir Clive said he has more than £400m to spend and was interested in expanding Rentokil's bygiene, personnel and property services divisions through acquisitions in North America and Europe.

The economic turnoil in Asia took its toll on Rentokil's business in the reginn, causing profits to slip by 0.6 per cent to £56.9m, and the group is now unlikely to seek acquisitions in Asked if Rentokil can sustain

the 20 per cent growth rate that has been the hallmark of its performance over the last 16 years, Sir Clive said: "I believe we can beat this target for the next three or four years at least. If we can't, it will not be for want of trying. Rentokil announced a 31 per

cent rise in profits to £417m despite the impact of the strong pound. The company also said it would pay a full-year dividend of 3.06p, up from 2.53p in 1996. Nevertheless the results disappointed the market and the shares slipped 5p to 308p. Investment column, page 26 year 2000 compliance. If a tegrated into the FSA.

Watchdog looks out for millennium bug

By Lea Paterson

THE NEW financial services watchdog will today warn member firms that failure to prepare for the year 2000 could lead to their licences being revoked.

Michael Foot, recently appointed as head of financial supervision at the Financial Services Authority (FSA), will tell a conference on Best Practice for Financial Institutions that the job of the FSA is to protect investors from losses caused by inadequate preparation for the year 2000".

that the FSA is not there to "solve other people's IT problems". He will say: "The buck must stop with the boards, the chief executives, top management generally, and those running small organisations.... Senior executives need to accept and take very seriously their responsibility." The FSA will require mem-

member firm's progress is not up to scratch, the watchdog will, in the first instance, require an independent body to assess the firm's compliance status.

If the problem is serious, the FSA will then take further steps to ensure that neither investors, nor the integrity of the markets, are put at risk. Mr Foot will tell the conference: "If we are satisfied that stronger action is justified to achieve nur regulatory objectives ... the FSA has powers available to it, for example to restrict a firm's activity to take on business, to However, Mr Foot will add stop doing business altogether or to transfer its business to an-

> Mr Foot will also caution firms which believe they are year 2000 compliant against overconfidence. "Such firms should adopt a watching brief and be prepared to revisit their plans."

other firm.

Nine regulatory bodies including the banking supervision department at the Bank of ber firms to give it regular re-England and the Personal Inports on their progress towards vestment Authority - will be in-

your competitors are fiddling their National Insurance,

giving use sail could Stop Would his mess gavire in ce.

the state of the second of the n's the honest susinesses that do pay National Insurance that succes. Finding Carring Landsung successions a criminal it is also so implair burden on the great majority of people Who was their businesses properly, and it can also affect

tielp us pur an end to this erione. If you show of a business competitor who is finding the system; presse call the Business Anti-Franci Horling free and in confidence. The line is ped from 8.30 am - 6.30 pm. Monday - Friday. It's your call.

people's future herialit autillement



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Rentokil stays on its 20% target

SO "Mr 20 per cent" has done it again. Clive Thompson, chief executive of Remokil Initial, has maoaged to achieve yet another year of 20 per cent growth in profits and earnings per share. That sort of increase bas seen the group expand from a company worth just £150m to one approaching £9bn over the last 16 years.

With this sort of track record, it is perhaps barsh to criticise the group's prospects. However, the problem with setting such a demanding target is that everybody is waiting for you to fail and a oumber of City analysis harbour doubts that Reotokil can keep it up. While that in itself is nothing new.

Rentokil did only just reach its selfimposed earnings target last year and without the use of tax losses it inherited from its acquisition of BET in 1996 it would probably have missed its goal. Rentokil's existing husinesses that

were not merged with any of BET's operations cootinued to show doubledigit sales growth. However, like-forlike sales at those that were joined together fell 5 per cent.

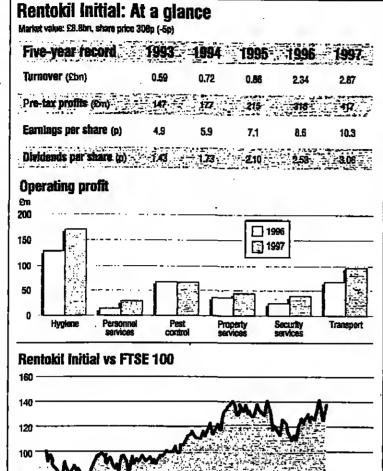
Reotokil believes there is much scope for improvement and that sales growth should still show double-digit figures this year. A rise in margins, as Rentokil drags BET profits up to its own historic high levels, should allow the group to achieve an organic rise in earnings of, say, 15 percent. Add in the benefits of a likely stream of bolt-on and for several years to come.

However, the feeling persists that Rentokil needs another big acquisition, and soon, to ensure its share price continues to rise. After all, even Rentokil is ready to admit that no company can Aegis finds itself grow on its own at 20 per cent for ever.

ing for another large purchase. ISS, the Scandinavian cleaning group, Compass the caterer and Securicor have all been mentioned. If it can find the right deal, its share price could motor again. The danger is that the search could overshadow its operating performance.

Rentokil's profits rose 31 per cent to £417m. However, analysts had expected a bit more, underestimating the damaging impact of sterling, and the shares slipped 5p to 308p.

Greig Middleton forecasts currentyear profits of around £505m, putting the shares on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 25. Rentokil should hold



acquisitions and Sir Clive helieves the on to its premium rating but, until it can 20 per cent target is in reach this year pull off another bid deal, the nigrling doubts will remain, which are likely to limit the progress of its shares. Hold.

Rentokil is certainly out there look- a prime position

IN just a few years, media buying has gone from being the dull bit of advertising to a growth industry in its own right. Crispin Davis, the chief executive of Aegis, is fond of pointing out that whereas 20 years ago an advertiser could reach 30 per cent of the population by placing an ad in Coronation Street, matters are now more complex.

Faced with a proliferation of mechannels, a growing number of mag-

planning and placing a media cam-

paign has become an important skill. Compared to the global advertising and media giants, though, media buying is still a fairly small industry. profits. The remainder comes from its Aegis is the world's third-largest player, yet is capitalised at just £589m. This had a good year last year and looks So it has some way to go before it car- set for more of the same. ries as much clout as the companies

Mr Davis, however, insists that on offering value-added services basically providing research and data to help companies choose the best place for their advertising. That strategy is already working: gross margins last year even at today's heady prices. improved from 5.2 to 5.6 per cent, and have further to go.

those out and profits rose by 28 per cent dia outlets - an explosion of television on a 21 per cent rise in turnover. Helped by new business wins, boit-on just yet, although those in for the longer

233-2

Family PC"

233MHz Intal Per

6.460 bard disk

4Mb ATI AGP x2 30 graphics

PREE Eason 300 colour printer

233M-2 Family PC*

figh patemente model only 2130 +475 = 2151.56 max Nr 235-2 above but wito- + Feater Elei Set

othet codes 15°214 17°215

266M-2 Family PC"

PR22S processor with MAX technology - PC-TV system with Telebot and video capture -VideoPhone receive - Platter but speed

moteuboers with StS Advenced Graphics + Edea Microsoft StH+ and were + FFEE Higher apec Episor

2554.2 above but wifty . Faster Eld & State.

PRESS processor with NBAK Suchmidage - Lurger 8.4Ch hard other - Poster Str. MAX CD-POM -FREE 1400ch Specu 600 colour parter - Snakat PC-TV, Videophone and Enter Microsoft software

15" SYGA colour screen (17" optional £149 +VAT = £175.08 extra)
 IBBI SS Gold speech recognition
 Includes 56k modern and all other

As 200M but witte

Pentium®

grow by 7 per cent, this year should offer more of the same. A deal with Zenith, the media buying business jointly owned by Saatchi & Saatchi and Cordiant; could happen but Aegis certainly doesn't need it.

In a sector where much of the talk of growth prospects is hype, Aegis is churning out consistent growth. Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker, forecasts profits of £49.5m which puts the shares, down 0.5p yesterday at 71.5p, on a forward p/e ratio of 20. Good value.

Bid hopes buoy up Schroders

THREE themes have cropped up over and over during this year's banking season - the Asian crisis, lackhustre investment banking and consolidation prospects. And Schroders, one of the few remaining independent UK merchant banks, yesterday proved to be no exception to the rule.

Schroders announced a 3 per cent rise in pre tax profits to £245m for the year to December. It posted Asian provisions to the tune of £32m -- more than expected. Oo the investment banking side, profits were slightly down oo last year. And, as far as mergers go, the bank repeated its commitment to an independent future.

So if Schroders' results don't mark it out from the banking crowd, why is it running at a forward p/e of more than 20 - high even for pricey financial stocks?

Firstly, although the investment banking business is hardly going great guns, it has not - unlike some - been a disaster. Second, investment banking accounts for less than half of Schroders burgeoning fund management business.

Thirdly, the share price is buoyed up by consolidation hopes. Many sector watchers believe that, irrespective of there is no virtue in becoming large for Schroders' public position, it is only a the sake of it. Rather, his emphasis is matter of time before it succumbs. And finally, many of the shares are beld by the Schroders' family and the bank's employees. So institutions are typically keen to get their hands on the stock -

The shares closed down 3 per cent at 2332p, due to a mixture of profit Currencies and exceptional items taking and the Asian provisions. The clouded Aegis's 1997 results, but strip consolidation hopes and the illiquidity of the stock means the bull run on Schroders shares may not be at an end azines, not to mention the internet - acquisitions and a market forecast to term would do better to look elsewhere.

TI ready for £600m war chest spree

company, yesterday said it was prepared to spend its £600m war chest on bolt-on huys and was already in talks with three of 12 potential targets.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, TI chairman, said: "There are 12 acquisition opportunities. It takes a lot of time to persuade them to be a willing seller ... at the right price. We are in discussions with three of them."

The move comes at a time when some industry analysts fear TTs core businesses may be running out of steam and in need of a big deal to stoke up profitability.

TI chiefs spelt out their acquisitioo strategy after reporting underlying pre-tax profits of £220.6m for 1997, at and down from £232.2m in

Despite the group's expansion plans and reports that 1998 trading had started well - the order book was up 10-15 per ceot oo 1997 - traders remained unimpressed. TI's share price fell sharply, to close at 511p, down 34p.

Michael Angle, TI finance director, said proceeds from

group in a good position to Sales rose 6 per cent to fund deals. "We will be cash positive and with deht we dend was up 10 per cent to 15.9 could spend up to £600m," be

The main focus for acquisitions will be in TI Group's Bundy unit, which makes fluid carrying systems for cars and refrigerators and John Crane, the scaling systems-maker.

Industry analysts recently speculated on a major spending spree to shore up the group's flagging share price performance, which hit a twoyear low of 430p in January after falling from a peak of 690.5p last October.

Nick Conningham, the Salomon Smith Barney analyst. said in a receot analysis that the lower-end of expectations the group could afford to spend up to £700m on a deal. Invested in acquisitions this could add more than 20 per cent to a full year's earnings ... but finding acquisitions will not be easy," he said.

TI bosses said most of their deals will be bolt-on buys to enhance current operations but added that they would oot rule out a deal as hig as £400m.

The 1997 results themselves

TI GROUP, the engineering recent disposals would put the held no surprises for analysis. £1.87bn and the total diviper share.

· second lines.

The group said its exposure to the continued strength of sterling had a "significant effect on the translation of results" but not on currency transactions because the group has manufacturing operations across the world.

On the fall-out from the economic turbulence in Asia, TI said there was nu material effect on results. At present 10 per cent of its sales come from the Asia-Pacific region, but interests are focused in the relatively stable economies of China, Iodia and Japan as well as the more vulatile Korea.

Summing up the divisional performance, TI said the John Crane unit had performed well in tough markets. Bundy shone in the autumotive market which was buoyant in the United States, hut witnessed volatility elsewhere.

The Dowty divisions "cootinued to benefit from strong growth in aerospace markets", the company said.

Parkland's former chief serves £600,000 writ

By Michael Harrison

THE FORMER executive chairman of Parkland, the Yorkshire-based textiles group, yesterday served a writ against £600,000 damages after being ousted from the job in a boardroom coup in January.

Bryan Lodder is suing Parkland for breach of contract. He was on a two-year contract worth £304,000 a year. He is also seeking to retain share options in the company.

Mr Lodder was asked to resign as chairman and chief executive five days after the group had reported disapinting helf-year results. The after exceptional items, large- last night.

ly restructuring costs which followed a £16m investment in a new high-technology dyeing cerned at Mr Lodder's treatand finishing plant in Nottingham.

When Mr Lodder took over the company elaiming as chief executive the company was losing more than £3m. a year. He subsequently turned it around into profits of more than £3m a year until this year's setback.

The board claimed that he had been asked to resign because "his plans for the future were unrealistic and we lost confidence in him".

However, since his departure, Parkland sbares have continued to plummet, falling from a high of 187.5p in group turned in a loss of £3.7m September to a close of 106.5p

Institutional investors are also understood to be conment and the lack of any ohvious succession plan at Parkland.

The company is 24 per cent owned by the Hanson family. one of whom, Paul Hanson, sits on the board as deputy chairman. John Hanson was chief executive until he recruited Mr Lodder into the company, Mr Hanson then left to run Greenwoods, a chain of small. menswear shops owned by his father-in-law.

The chairman of Greenwoods, a 64-year-old textiles director called John Jackson, has taken over temporarily as chief executive of Parkland.

Mb RAM Gb H.D.

With new lower prices and superb higher specifications, there has never been a better time to buy a PC. But don't waste time as the free printer offers are limited. Visit your local Time showroom or call direct and buy a Time PC today!

200M Family PC™ 200MHz Intel Penth with MMX technology

- 32Mb RAM 4.3Gb hard disk 56k voice modern 24x MAX CD-ROM
- * 30 wavetable sound 4Nb SIS Advanced Graphics USING SYSTEM RAM * 14" SVGA colour screen (15"

SF525 stereo speaker system

* Over £200 software* buride

 Raily Championship game
 90 minute VHS video trainer * Year 2000 complexs

* ATX mid tower with all standard

(grace 80, 182 = TAV + 982 Ignoitoo

14 Day money back guarantee (excluding carriage)

FREE Epeon 300 colour printer 1765ء

200M-2 Parmily PC"

Best Boy record carly E169 +VAT - £198.58 or As 200M above but +00: - Paster ISM 6-660 PF200 processor with MAKK technology - Larg



All offers end 14th March

Freephone Time Now!

Buy Now... Pay Sept 1998 INTEREST FREE CREDIT

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Coats Viyella rules out disposals as profits slump

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

COATS VIYELLA, the underterday confirmed plans to press abead with a demerger of its the sale of any of its key units.

profits warning last December, said headline pre-tax profits tumbled to £52.9m in 1997 from £83.3m a year earlier. One-off items wiped a further £19.6m off profits and the company cut its total dividend to

4.7p per share from 8.8p in 1996. ecutive, quashed speculation that the group could sell part of the Vivella business earmarked for demerger. The division includes fashion chain Jaeger, Dorma household textiles and a cootract clothing husiness which is a large supplier to

Marks and Spencer. our husiness all the time. But I to the clothing, footwear and antell shareholders it is not in their interests to sell significant parts threads and yarns for domestic of the group now," Mr Ost said. "Why? Because we are at the bottom of our performance cycle and a sale would be demerger of the engineering crystallising shareholder loss." Coats Viyella said its 1997

added that none of its operating divisions had performed to their full potential.

Mr Ost detected some signs performing textiles group, yes- of improvement so far this year, saying trading in both arms of the company was "nicely clothing and home furnishings ahead" of the first two months business this year and ruled out of last year. He said he hoped the dividend cut would prove to The group, which issued a be a one-off adjustment.

The company said it had suffered from the effects of the ecocomic slowdown in Brazil while the strength of sterling had reduced operating profit by almost £20m.

Coats' shares, which have languished below 90p since the Michael Ost, the chief ex- profit warning late last year, closed down 0.5p at 86p.

Sir David Alliance, the chairman, said he believed the planned demerger, which shareholders will vote on later this year, would help the group to realise its potential.

Post-demerger, Coats will incorporate the group's largest "People want to buy bits of division, which supplies thread tomotive industries as well as sewing. It will also include a precision engineering business.

There are plans for a second arm, which could be spun off by

the middle of next year. results were disappointing and COMPANY RESULTS

Turnover£ Pre-tax£ EPS Dividend 3,55hn (3,45hn) 45.6m (39,5m) 3.8p (9,9p) 0,7p Maright & Wilson (F) 701.5m (703.4m) 21.7m (62.5m) 4.8p (13.9p) 7.15p (0.9p) 6.7m (1.2m) 6.9p (3.0p) 1.55p 6.97m (5.08m) 0.662m (-4.24m) 1.79p (-4.02p) nli

BAT Industries (F) 24.08an (24.47bn) 1,79bn (2.50bn) 82.0p (48.8p) *15.0p Charch & Co (f) 80.75m (79.71m) 5.8m (5.87m) 35.7p (31.7p) 17.0p (15.8p) Casta Vivada (f) 2.31br (2.38bn) 23.5m (94.4ml) 2.5p (6.7p) 4.7p (8.8p) Casalan Property (F) 84.1m (25.7m) 3.25m (1.60m) 13.1p (8.8p) 4.51p (4.10p) oden Manifelm (F) 447.8m (697.1m) 18.2m (15.5m) 9.7p (8.8p) 3.1p (2.8p) eywood Williams (F) 632.5m (639.5m) 43.7m (97.2m) 29.8p (21.7p) 14.8p (18.8p) 56,32m (47,84m) 1.54m (-1,13m) 1.5p (-6.7p) 4.0p (3.5p) 101.8th (100.1m) 2.83m (3.83m) \$.4p (13.3p) 3.5p (3.25p) F15 Group (F) 91.5m (72.9m) 8.05m (2.20m) 8.3p (7.0p) 4.0p 2 91bn (2.29bn) 417.0m (\$18.0m) 10.32p (8.56p) 3.08p (2.83p) PRODUCTS (F) 245.0m (239.0m) 87.4p (\$1.9p) -23.0p (20.0p) been Combre Spect (I) • (+) 5.9m (6.5m) 3.350 (8.27p) 1.2p (1.1p) 1.87br (1.75br) 220,8m (222.2m) 31,8p (34,1p) ~15.9p (14.5p) (P) - Fixed (I) - Intention (SP) - Spill, Period "Owldand to be paid as a RI)"

Germany predicts economic turnaround this year

The German economy is expected to grow by between 2.5 and 3 per cent this year and unemployment is set to decline, according to the government's annual report issued yesterday. "The worst is behind us," declared Gunter Rexrodt, the economics minister. "The turnaround in the labour market is increasingly visible." It forecast average unemployment for the current year would he around 4.4 million, and the unemployment rate would be 11.5 per cent, up by 0.1 per cent on last year. Altogether, the government expects 200,000 new iobs will be created. This is not the first time the government has spotted the green shoots recovery in the jobs market, only to be contradicted by another bout of unforeseen frost. With six months to go to the elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has extra reasons to project optimism this time.

SBC seeks new bond boss

The Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) has unsuccessfully tried to peach Edson Mitchell, head of global markets at Deutsche Bank, to head up its bond business. The move came only months after SBC appointed Andrew Siciliano to the role. SBC wanted to split Mr Siciliano's job in two. The news came as SBC and its merger partner UBS reported full-year results. The two banks made a combined loss of 472m Swiss francs (£193m) in 1997 after restructuring charges of SFr7bu. Both banks were hit by poor trading performances and the Asian crisis.

Hanson sells off crane arm

Hanson finally unloaded its crane-making business yesterday, taking another step in its aim to become a fully focused huilding materials group. The former conglomerate is selling Grove Worldwide to Keystone of the US for \$605m (£365m), in line with market expectations.

RM wins £1 m PFI deal

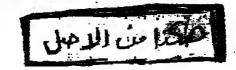
RM, the computer software company, has won a Public Finance Initiative contract worth £1m to manage Tynemouth College's information technology (IT) facilities. The deal is the first of its type in the sector. RM said it secured the contract for six years. RM will create a new 100 workstation IT suite with fully networked internet access and will also provide a complete support staff service.

Reports of Rolls sale denied

Vickers, the parent of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd, yesterday said it had not made a decision on a buyer for the huxury car maker. "The process is still ongoing," a Vickers spokeswoman said, responding to a report in Bild, the German tabloid daily newspaper. VW believed it had won the battle to acquire Rolls, the paper said. The paper claimed Volkswagen's chief executive, Ferdinand Piech, and the Lower Saxony premier Gerhard Schroeder met Graham Morris, Rolls-Royce's chief executive. Neither VW nor Vickers would comment. BMW. which is also interested in Rolls, said it wasn't surprised to learn of the VW meeting. Rolls is expected to fetch £300m-£400m.

Shares and units listings

Owing to a system failure with our information supplier Bloomberg, the listings of London shares and unit trust prices published in yesterday's Independent were incorrect. We



Second liners close the gap on blue chips

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

AS blue chips struggled to hit sized companies tend to be 792.5p with market research man forecasting 1,250p, Standard Chartered banking stock market was in much more heady form, with second and third liners striding confidently to record levels.

Footsie's gain was a modmid caps index jumped 30 to 5,316.8 and the small caps index rose 12.4 to 2,523.4p.

The market's under card has this year convincingly moved to narrow the huge gap which the long hlue-chip bull run had opened up.

Many fund managers. trooping back into equities after building their cash hoards, have decided blue chips have become too expensive and the real bargains

burk in the rest of the market. The latest Merrill Lynch survey among fund managers recorded a sharp increase, from 15 per cent to 38 per cent, in the number of managers preferring mid cap stocks.

another peak the rest of the more sensitive to the domes- group Taylor Nelson resting at frothed up 50p to 1,050p. tic economy than their larger 100.75p. Footsie cousins".

The quarterly Pootsie revision resulted in Compass, the contract caterer, gaining memest 1.3 points to 5,829.8; the bership with Misys, the computer group, just missing out. Relegated Disons firmed 1.5p to 491.5p.

Seven companies jomed the supporting mid cap index, including consultant WS Atkins and chemical group Yule Catto. Among the casualties were Powerscreen and Body Shop. As is so often the case, in-

vestors had already discounted

the latest changes and even

some of the adjustments which

will be made in the next few-Takeovers should mean at least two mid cap changes before June, prompting the fered around 6 million shares. shares topping the reserve list to reach new peaks, Engineer

Compass, up 2p to 950p, was helped by Remokil Initial's expansionist mood. Chief executive Sir Clive Thompson hinted the environmental and business support group might be ready to mount another maior takeover.

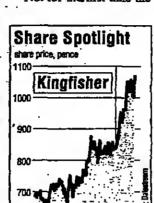
Its last big deal was the £2bn acquisition of BET nearly two years ago. Compass, as well as Securicor and a Danish group, ISS, have been rumoured to be in Rentokil's sights. Securicor improved 27p to 383.5p.

The 1,100p SG Securities target price for Kingfisher has almost been reached with the shares up 42p to 1,072p. Great Universal Stores, bidding for Argos, fell 6.5p to 785p, as Goldman Sachs of-

Best performing blue chip, reflecting its profit upgrading. Merrill Lynch's Trevor Meggitt firmed 0.5p to 182.5p; was British Energy with a 24p Greetham believes "medium- Business Post rose 25p to gain to 494p. Bass, with Gold-

Cable & Wireless, ahead of an analysts' dinner, hardened 24.5p to 676p and Tate & Lyle was little changed at 525p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson trimmed its profits estimates from £241m to £234m. It cut its forecast last

Not for the first time the



group was the hot takeover tip. The shares climbed 23.5p to 890p with remours swirling Barclays, or Lloyds TSB. would today roll out a 1,300p to 1,450p bid. In January Standard's shares were down to

Norwich Union succumbed to profit taking after its results and its failure to produce a special dividend, falling 28.5p to 481.5p. Schroders, flying high on bid hopes, fell 63p to 2,332p as chairman Win Bischoff affirmed his intention to remain independent and added: "A number of people have come to tell us bow

After Thesday's orderdriven trading confusion, BPB, the building materials group, traded at 355p, an alleged fall from 400p.

wonderful they think we are

but no, we've received no firm

Aberdeen Asset Management, on the smaller cap awakening and the heady bid

Off Integrated
165 648 3P
159 880 Barrels Cause
60 34 Sull

climate among financial companies, rose 4.5p to 109p; the price is up from 90p this year.

Car dealers again moved up a gear. Gowrings, with figures followed by a presentation next week, motored 10p to 132.5p, a high.

Merrill Lynch was in a bearish mood downgrading chemical group Brent International, off 2p to 124p, to sell. It also put reduce signs over HP Bulmer, the cider group unchanged at 335p, and Energis. up 33.5p to 530.5p.

CrestaCare, a health group, put on 1.25p to 28.75p following, it is thought, investment meetings in Scotland. Hard-pressed Waverley Mining rose 4.5p to 16p on talk of a cash injection. Three years ago the shares were 132p.

Independent Insurance continued to strengthen on its results, up another 122.5p to 1.517.5p and pub chain JD Wetherspoon rose 25p to 326.5p in response to its

Price Cig Ynd PRECode

2.00

2.01

2.02

2.03

2.04

2.05

2.00

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2.05

2

Unite PLC S.Difen Downling & Mills 4,62m Whenpey (G) PLC 5,73m Coolson Grp PLC 4,8m

Up 11.5 12:00 5807.1

TAKING STOCK

ITE, formerly Cementone returns to market on Tuesday. having raised £38m through a placing and open offer and taken over, in a £65m deal, a business organising exhibitions in the former Soviet

The cash call was made at 47.5p; there are hopes the shares will start trading at

ITE represents the market comeback of Laurie Lewis, founder of Blenheim, the exhibition business taken over by United News & Media.

Middlesex, the metals group with extensive interests in the former Soviet Union, held at 4.75p. Talks continue with Reo Gazprom, the oil giant, to buy a stake, initially 15 per cent, in the company.

The holding is likely to be eventually lifted to 25 per cent. Middlesex, run by Masoud Alikhani, is due to announce profits in the next two months. They could emerge at around £6m, down

source: Bloombero

VPS £600,000 WH

Learn experts.

Why squeezing the rich helps poll ratings more than the Exchequer



DIANE **COYLE ON CLOSING** UP TAX LOOPHOLES

WEALTH is seriously out of rather than Porsches. Two American economists proposed. a couple of years ago, a special consumption tax on luxury items those already driving. to pay for public services for the poor, arguing that wasteful

And the Labour Party only frivolous but actually remilked fat cats - to mix duces well-being for others. metaphors -- for all they were Professor Krugman suggests worth in the ruo-up to last we might want to encourage the year's election, profiting from status-seekers to do something general resentment about the exteot to which the lucky few charity or the arts, or even were pulling away from the rest. That accumulated reseotmeot, along with a spot of em- conspicuous purchases heavily barrassmeot over Geoffrey Robinson's financial arrangements, is the political fuel driving the Chancellor's expected crackdown oo tax avoid-

ance in next week's Budget. On the face of it, the rich present an irresistible target. Take the argument about spending on luxury goods like expensive cars and designer clothes. Ever since Thorstein Veblen first analysed the phenomenon of conspicuous consumption, it up. Some wild estimates put the has been understood that some goods command a higher price government's coffers at as much

watches are oot necessarily better at telling the time than far cheaper watches, and many would argue that they don't even look any nicer. But they certainly flaunt their owner's wealth.

The economist Paul Krugman has receotly pointed out that status goods like this represent a market failure. The reason is that there is an externality involved in my purchase of a Rolls-Royce or a Rolex or, the latest hot fashion item, a pair of Gucci slingbacks. I reduce the value existing owners of these items derive from theirs by reducing the scarcity value. This is why status goods are either extremely expensive, so that they can be rationed by price, or fall out of fashioo very quickly, as the herd catches up with the fashion. The tide turned earlier trend-setters. A few, like Van this decade, partly in reaction to Gogh paintings, are rationed by the conspicuous excesses of the genuine scarcity hut, in general, late 1980s. The Ninetics have conspicuous consumption crebeen a decade of downshifting, ates a form of congestion. It is saving not speeding, pensions just like traffic congestion where every extra car on the roads makes the use of a car less valuable and more expensive for

In other words, the rich engage in an arms race of cooexpenditure ought to be spicuous consumption that eats discouraged by the tax system. up resources in a way that is not else, like give their money to work less and spend more time might be another way of reducing activity.

Another policy option, and the one on Gordon Brown's agenda, is making very sure the wealthy pay all the taxes they ought to anyway. Tax avoidance is perfectly legal, but most peoit shouldn't be allowed. Public fervour about "missing billions" in tax revenue is easily whipped amount gone astray from the because of their status rather as £100bn, when total tax revthan their intrinsic value. Rolex enues are just over £300bn.

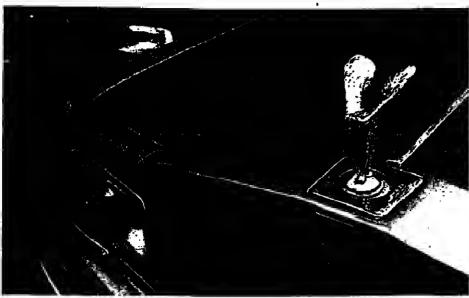
15- 817 212-50 612-50 910-6 172-50 172-50 172-50 16

612.60 128.50 490.30 281.50 308.60 760.60 65.77 70.72 273.80 184.60 104.40 473.60 473.60

78.96 276.20 55.87 25.80 89.60 32.78 490.20 10.60 10.60 95.25 157.40

\$22.40 \$4.32 \$74.00 \$2.76 10002 452.60 105.50 Lad

63.36 (733.00 (235.00 206.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00 192.00



Conspicuous consumption: A tax on 'status goods' could hit UK firms like Rolls-Royce

doubt that wealthy individuals and businesses alike go out of their way not to pay unnecessary tax. After all, the rich are different; they have accountants. But the policy debate ought to recognise that tax avoidance is the other side of the coin of goverument attempts to shape people's behaviour. For every tax break eventually becomes a tax really good idea when they were introduced.

All the big tax reliefs many of us enjoy fall into this category -mortgage interest relief, profit related pay, Peps and Tessas. To list them is to see how governwith their family. Taxing their ments cod up seeing all these attempts to achieve desirable outcomes such as harder work discouraging their welfare- or more saving as loopholes that entrepreneurs are the kind of are costing too much in foregone

revenue and need plugging. The same is true of less obvious tax breaks too. When business expansion schemes could invest in property they became a hugely popular way for ple who are not doing it think relatively well-off people to shelter some of their savings from tax. And consider the Chancellor's introduction of superior allowances for investment in the film industry. For a special tax hreak is a sensible most rich people this is not an attractive tax shelter-because it. involves a hig risk of losing all

for a company which might think about investing in films anyway, and for which losses could prove useful to reduce its dream tax break. As Fox Searchlight, a Rupert Murdoch company which funded The Full Monty, discovered, the film might eveo make a huge profit. The rumoured increased alloophole. They just seemed a lowances for investment in small high-technology firms will turn out to be the same kind

of break.

incentives are misguided? Not necessarily. A thriving economy does need thriving small and growing businesses in cuttingedge industries. It is an unfortunate but unavoidable fact that people who will devote much ingenuity to avoiding paying taxes they can legally avoid. After all, it is the desire to make money that makes them entrepreneurs in the first place. But this does not mean that we should not want entrepreneurs. They are essential to the health of the economy. If the government thinks we want more investment in certain specific areas,

Corporate avoidance of taxes

There is no shadow of a the money if the film flops. But is another matter because some companies do exploit both the difficulty for the reveoue authorities of keeping track of internal transactions which cross other tax liabilities, it is a national borders and the increasing competition between countries to attract investment. There has been a bit of a race downwards in corporation tax rates over the past decade or so -good if it boosts investment in total, but not so good if it simply deprives one country of investment and relocates it in another. This is a problem that But does this mean such tax member governments of the

OECD are trying to tackle collectively. As for a consumption tax on status goods, this would have an economic downside. It would reduce sales of luxury goods, some of which are made in Britain - Rolls-Royce cars, Vivienne Westwood dresses, Mulberry bags. Given that the economic harm from conspicuous consumption affects only the wealthy, a cost-benefit analysis might show the envyadjusted national interest. giving a higher weight to the masses than to fat cats and other rich people, would be maximised by simply letting those who want to chase status way of encouraging it. After all, get on with it - as long as they they can always be revoked later. pay their fair share of the other

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



CHURCH'S Shoes, the Northampton-based cobbler to those who can nearly afford handmade shoes but not quite, is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

And what better way to celebrate than produce some new shoes? Church's is bringing out three classic brogues, named after the three founding Church brothers - William, Alfred and Thomas.

The shoes will be produced in a limited run of 3,000 in total, and made out of "only the finest selected skins". They'll even be numbered and have their own cleaning kits.

Over 2,000 of the birthday pairs have been

sold, pretty impressive considering they cost a toe-curling £395 a shot. The company is still chaired by one of the founding family, John Church, who is a great

great grandson of one of the trio. And just to show it is still a go-ahead concern, Church's has just sold 8,000 pairs of smart brown boat shoes to the Royal Navy, to replace the sailors' traditional ocean-going black

ELLIOTT BERNERD, boss of Chelsfield and doyen of property developers, has got a new role, chairman of the South Bank Centre, Lon-

doo's premier arts complex. Mr Bernerd, the wheeler-dealer with a huge house in London's posh Eatoo Square, go the job this week when Sir Brian Corby resigned over the Arts Council's scrapping of a £75m grant for the South Bank.

The grant was needed for a buge refurbishment of the complex, which includes the Royal Festival Hall and the National Theatre. The scheme featured a vast glass roof designed by Sir Richard Rogers.

Mr Bernerd usually spends his time cooking up property schemes like the office and botel complex in Paddington which will exploit the new, fast rail link to Heathrow Airport. Whether he can handle the luvvies of the

CONGRATULATIONS to Iau Hay Davison, who bas won the accountant's top accolade - .

South Bank is another matter.

Not that Mr Hay Davison is the kind of man who needs congratulating too much. He has a pretty healthy view of his own abilities as it is. UK managing partner of Arthur Andersen at 35, he left to tackle the problems of Lloyd's of London as its first chief executive. He has also acted as a DTI inspector into the Stonehouse companies and headed two Price Commission investigations.

. Jubhahuni

And, on the day that The Independent passes into new ownership, let's remember that it was Mr Hay Davison who, as the former head of Newspaper Publishing, the paper's owner, did so much to engineer the previous ownership deal with the Mirror Group.

Indeed, if you were to spend much time with Mr Hay Davison, you might start to imagine that he had single-handedly built the Channel Tunnel and bad discovered penicillin to boot. But that would be churlish.

There is one job that has cluded Mr Hay Davison so far, that of chief executive of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the body that gave him this week's award. Andrew Colquboun has stood down, and the post is being re-designated secretary general.

But Mr Hay Davison laughs at my suggestion. "It's too close to what I did at Lkwd's." he says. He adds that his views on the ICA are well known, that the president's powers should be beefed up so that he, not the secretariat, actually runs the place.

As one former president of the ICA once put it: "About the only thing the president decides at the Institute is what goes on the

YESTERDAY was National No Smoking Day, which didn't put the Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign off from claiming that "tax rises on tobacco hit the poor harder than the rich".

The Pair Cigarette Tax Campaign is funded by the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association. The campaign's claim causes me great concerp. Is Eddie George, a famous puffer of multiple packets of fags per day, secretly groaning under the weight of tobacco taxes? And how about poor old Ken Clarke, Prince

of the Panatellas? Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT, is another unrepentant smoker, not to mention most of the directors of Imperial Tobacco. Victor Rice, chief executive officer of Lucas Varity, is another unreconstructed puffer who is obviously only one step away from the bailiffs because of his nicotine addiction.

CSFB's tactic of putting "golden handcuffs" on key BZW staff when it bought the equities and corporate finance divisions of the Barclays' investment bank subsidiary is having an impact.

Commerzbank has just poached Mark Eban, an old BZW hand, from CSFB to be its first Global Head of Equity Capital Markets. Right at the end of the press announcement Commerzbank notes: "As one of BZW's key employees, Mark Ehan is expected to be kept out of the market for several mooths

before being able to join Commerzbank." Never mind. I'm sure Mr Eban has pleoty the 1998 Founding Societies' Centenary Award: of gardening to catch up on.

AIA Apr96 May96 Jun98 Vot: Soya CBOT Mar98 May98 Jul96 Vot:

(SAF) \$/100 mt (TCM) Y/5k kg (CTN) \$/50k tb (CCN) \$/25 tn (CST) \$/60k tb (TCM) \$/500kg

80.55 19787 9961 252.28 53.442 104.94 102.10 80.65 106.79 18.57 10.57 10.78 10

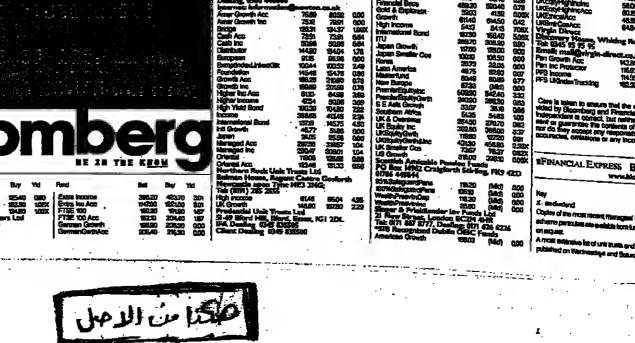
5707 62.91 60.00 4519 78.25 54.13 63.02 141.20 58.05 46.89 64.84

57:36 63:23 60:31 49:44 82:98 56:03 65:23 149:70 61:46 84:96 50:07 68:70 083X 093 260 260X 176 616X 616 078 336 336 000 030

URTE E/tonne
Mar98 8800
Apr98 63.50
May98 70.50
Vol: 44
Corn*
CBCT Cents/beh
Mar96 273.60
May96 281.50
Jul96 288.00
Vol: 50071

\$.25k kg 668.00 672.50 24026 Beams* \$/5k bahis 22.60 24.20 26.00 29.00

Foreign Exchange Rates	Interest Rates	Liffe Financial Futures	Industrial Metals
Sterling Country Spot 1 month 3 month Spot 1 month 1 m	UK	Contract	Auminium HG 1450 1451 1750 1471 1472 Auminium Aloy 1264 1268 1100 1292 1292 Copper A 17705 17715 2850 1791 1792 Copper A 17705 17715 2850 1791 1792 Lend 543 544 -100 548 550 Mickel 5340 5350 1000 5430 5430 Thi 5430 5440 1000 5430 5430 Thi 5430 5440 1000 5430 5435 Zinc 1012 1013 -250 10375 10385 Precious Metals pm fix/s per oz Day's Year's Cig Chg Chg Chg Chg Chg Chg Chg Chg Chg Ch
### ACC SERIOR SET ONLY THE Prices ### ACCOUNTY TRUST Level Bactole Bridge Lase, London SEI 2HR to 2017 378 When the 20	Barriago Barriago	Fird Sat Suy Yid Tak \$4634 \$36400, Dealings \$4634 \$30401 Selenced	Commodity Comm



Rubhahunish gamble is Imperial riddle

A PLUNGE on Imperial Cup outsider Rubhahunish caused his odds to tumble from 50-1 to 7-1 with William Hill yesterday. But doubts were raised last night over whether the sevenyear-old will even line up at Sandown on Saturday.

on the Flat by Peter Chapple-Hyam. He later finished third in the 1996 Welsh Champion Hurdle hut more receotly has been at the stables of James £30,000-added Imperial Cap Bennett. The gelding has since and will only reach the handiswitched to another small yard, that of Martin Bosley, after finishing unplaced in two outings this jump season.

Ladbrokes also reported a big gamble oo the horse, from 40-1 to 8-1. But the Bosley stahlc said they were mystified. Sara Bosley, the trainer's wife, said: "I'd love to know who's been hacking him.

"We doo't gamble and Martin has been invited over to France today to play golf and knows nothing about it. And

Results

BANGOR 1.50: 1, KADOU NONANTAIS (J.A.Mo-

Cartiny) 4-7 fav; 2. Grand Goueter 14-1; 3. Seety Nova 5-1, 11 ran. 27, nk. (O Shenwood Upper Lambourn). Tota: £160; £150; £150; £250; £130; £150; £

Brodey) 1-2 far; 3. Tramelit 8-1; 3. Demier'a Choice 3-1.6 ran. det; 15. (** Tata, Tadoseter). Tota: 51:30; 51:30, 51:30, DF; 53:30, CSF; 53:31 Tio: 51:50, AR: Adventure Princese. 2.50: 1. CENTAUR EXPRESS (** Eley) 7-2; 2. Avantil Express 8-13 for; 3. Siss-inghurat Flyer 11-1 B ran. Shi-hd, det. (A. Streeter, Utioseter). Tota: 54:90; 52:40, 51:0. DF; 53:20, CSF; 53:73. 3:20: 1. HOODWINKER (C. Uewellyn) 8-1; 2. Just One Chestion 10-1; 3. Riot Leader

3.20: T. HOCOWMRGER CC Lievellyn) 8-1; 2. Just One Cuestion 10-1; 3. Riot Leader 7-2. 10 ran. 11-4 tav Seymourswift (pulled up), 5, 8 (W Janks, Bridgnorth), Tota: £160; £40, £300, £170, DF: £36.30, CSF; £78.20 Tricast: £308.20, Tro: £3790, 3.50: 1, PARSONS BOY (A Dobbin) 14-1; 2. Do Biothir (31-1; 3). Evertont Research 4-1;

a. Sur 1. PATECHES BOY (A Dobbr) 14-1; 2. Do Rightly 10-1; 3. Footnot Romeo 4-1 6 ran. 8-11 tav Wishing Wilsom (felf) 2/4, 40, (G Richards, Greysloke), Tobe: \$10.20; £2.20, £4.20. DF: £28.40 CSP: £12.5; 4.20: 1. MR BUSKER (Mr C.J. B. Barbw) evens tav; 2. Highway Five 3-1; 3. Finch's Gam 4-1 6 ran. ½, sht bd. (P Morris), Tobe: £100: £130. £140. DE 2000. CSP. See

CIRC C130, C180, DF C300, CSF; E45; 4.50; 1, PALLADIUM BOY (A P McCoy) 7-2 fav; 2, Murray's Million 5-1; 3, Zahraelle 2-1, 17 ran. 6; ½, (M Ppa, Wellington), Tota: 6490; E10, E170, E280, E160, DF; E2350, CSF; E2016, Tricest E8106, NF; Blatent Out-

Piecepot: £58.50, Guadpot: £34.40. Piece 6: £6813, Piece 5: £5704. CATTERICK

2.00: 1. FASSAN (R Gentity) 5-4 fav; 2. Honeyecholoe 16-1; 3. Rusek 4-1, 21 ran. 8 fd. (M Hammond, Middlehem), Tobe: 5250; CLSO, CTSO, 5480, DF: 52140, CSF; 52638.

Tho: £7240. 2.30: 1. NICOLA'S PRINCESS (R Mo-10, hd. (H Alexander, Co Durtum), Tota: 5890; 5340, 5170, 5250, DF; 52490, GSF; 53589. Tho: 55210, NR; Members Welcoms. 3,00; 1, HARFDEGENT (P Niven) 7-2; 2.

Stage Fright 14-1; 3. Gypsy Rece 7-1, 1D ren. 11-10 fev Cutrill Hope (left), 6, 4. (Mrs M Reveley, Seltburn, Total: C390; 5170, 5280, 5270, DF; 51820, GSF; 51445, Tho: 53850

R: Tweedswood.

3.30: 1. CRABBIE'S PRIDE (Richard) Guest) 7-4 fay; 2. Tip It In 12-1; 3. Water Font S3-1, 15 ren. S, 6 %. (Airs S Smith, Bin-gley). Tota: £250; £130, £280, £870. DF: £1540, CSF: £2512, Thosat £540.36, This: Not

4.00: 1, HILTONSTOWN LASS (Mr R Waltort) 10-1; 2. Damegeld 7-2; 3. Royal Banker 10-1, 9 ran. 10-11 fav Moving Out (pulled up). 13. 4. (T Waltond, Sherrit Hut-ton), Rote: \$12:0; \$140, \$200, \$170, DF: \$730. CSF: \$4703. Tho: £5060. NR: India Rock. 4.50: 1. CALLERNOY (J. Burtes) 3-1: 2. Flat 70p 10-1; 3. Apache Reider 9-1. 11 ren. 11-10 fav Lord Fortune (urseated nder). Dist. 22.70 2150 DF: 63650 CSF: 63867. Tric-ast. 623988 Tric: 652.20 NR: Absolute Fol-

No. 122988 Tro: 25220. NF: Absolute Fol-ly, Gate Force. 5,00: 1. TWENTY WONES (I. Wyer) 3-1; 2. Inch Way 5-1; 3. Castlehill Star 14-1 8 ran. 2-1 fav Headmaster (40), 174, 12; U Currn. Maiton). Tette: 2570; 210. 2130, 2240 DF: 22050. CSF: 2489. Trio: 2810. NRs. Galway, Kicroggan. PAD DY: PASA COFF TANAS IND. FOLIA NRS. Galway, Kilcroggan. Jeckpot: C1469030 (pert won, pool of 552720 to Wincardon today). Placepot: C6240 (buedpot: 1950. Placepot: C6240. Place 5: £14931.

SOUTHWELL .40: 1. BUSTOPHER JONES (C

1.40: 1. BUSTOPHER JONES (C Lowther) 9-1; 2. Aldwych Arrow 11-2; 3. Pro-terms Bay 10-112 ran. 7-4 tay Minor 3, 1/4. (C Egerton) Tota: C1940: C330, C190, 2500. DF: C3620 C5F: IS745 Tricist: D4708. This CCOL30 NR: Loolangitoriove Del. 2.10: 1. NAKHAL (C Lowther) 11-4 fav.; 2. Last Knight 8-1; 3. Bellyklasamger 50-1; 2. ran. 3, 8 (O Murray Smith). Tota: C270; C120, C190, C117 D DF: C2440. CSF: E25.66. Tricist: D862.37 Tro: C27750 Durgaris De-light (7-11 was withdrawn not under orders; Rufo 4 applies to board prices only deduc-tion 10p in the pound. 2.40: 1. FillAL (K Fallon) 7-2; 2. Greenspan 1-2 tor; 3. Prix de Clemont 8-1 5 ran. hd. 10; Il Posrce) Tota: C470: C550, C100. DF: C170. CSF. E366. NR: Prixate Despatch.

3.10: 1. KRYSTAL MAX (Kimberley

Harth 10.1:3. Divine Miss-P 9-1:3. Scaled 7-2 to. 14 ran. 1%, 1 (T D Barron). Total 1980: 1400: 1500: 1140 DF: 18340. CSF: 19428 Treats: 136427 The. 134730. NF: In-

3.40: 1. CAROL AGAIN (P M Ounn) 10-1; 3.00.1. CAPOL Assets in memory and in 2.

Dules Bay 16-1. 3. Charming Admiral 5-1. 14 ran. 3-1 to Heighth Of Fama. 11/s. art nd (N Bycrott) Yote: CH40; IC20, E440, IC20, IC20

4.10. 1, SOLD ARISTOCRAY (F Lynch)
4.10. 1, SOLD ARISTOCRAY (F Lynch)
9.2: 2. Eiten Ladger 2-1 fev; 3. Stately
terour W-1 11 ran. 1., 1%, (R Holinsheed).
1946: 1.50. 1. 100. 1360 DF: 2530 GSF:
1276 The: 21570
4.40: 1.50425 A GEM IJ Currel) 8-1; 2.
Kustom KR Kute 12-3. Stepl 11-2 9 ran.
7-2. If the Mess Skrv (HD) 12. 4. (Mrs. N.
7-2. If the Mess Skrv (HD) 12. 4. (Mrs. N.
Macausy) Tose: 5450, C1-40 C30, C340 DF:
15500 GSF 20678 Thesis 27556 Toc 270.
1500 1. 50ARIDAR; (A. Fallon) 7-2; 2.
Bank On Mm 7-2. 3. Areans Star 5-2 fex.
Bank On Mm 7-2. 3. 4. (C50) 9 tan, 6.4 LL Eyrel Table: \$2.50, \$170 \$2.50. \$130 DF-\$650 \$35 \$5621 Trease \$3435.

Place & Clark Place 5 C2828

INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 +

WINCANTON 971 981 TOWCESTER 972 973 983 CARLISLE ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Rubhahunish is not 100 per cent is Alabang, confirmed a runner have the race sewn up, the who wins the Imperial Cup ency but warmed up for Tues- Cheltenham Gold Cup betting certain to run. We've got one yesterday. horse in the yard a little off-

and a blood-test.

"He has been working very well and we were very lucky to he has run two stinking races and I don't know how anyone he failed to go through with his Rubhahunish was trained seeing those can think that they effort. are being clever by backing him," she added

Rubhahunish is 6lb out of the handicap for the for the cap proper if top-weights .dle." Cadougold and Star Rage are oot declared tomorrow.

Also available at 8-1 with Ladbrokes for Saturday's race time when, after appearing to

PETER SAVILL was yesterday

Wincanton

3.50 Alka International

2.50 Bengers Moor 3.20 MILLCROFT RIVIERA (nap)

talisator Board.

2.20 Sol Music

British Horseracing Board's ceive a salary of £8,578 a year

GOING: Good.

GRight-hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yds.

GCourse is NE of town on BSOSI. Templecombe station (service from London, Westerloo)

4m, ADMISSION: Members 213 (Junior Members, 17 to 22 years, 2550); Tethersalis 22;

Course (and cars to course) 94. (Linder-lifs free into all enciosurse). CAR PARIC Free.

GLEADING TRANSCRIS: M Pips 37-50 (94.7%). P Nicholis 30-143 (21%). J Gifford 15-72

(203%). Mrs J Pitman 14-83 (22-2%). R Almar 14-106 (32-%). P Hobbs 14-111 (22-%).

GLEADING JOCKEYS: R Duniwoody 26-124 (21%). A P McCoy 20-106 (19%). C Member 11-76 (14-5%).

GLEADING JOCKEYS: R Duniwoody 26-124 (21%). A P McCoy 20-106 (19%). C Member 11-76 (14-5%).

GRAVOURITES: 171-442 (38.7%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Asymptom (4-50).

2.20 SEAVINGTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,000 added 2m Penalty Value £1,800

SETTING: 3-1 Soi Biselo, 100-30 Bartin Blats, 6-1 Spy Knell, 7-1 Abeliany, 8-1 Nazis, 10-1 Prospec-tor's Cove, Time Project, 14-1 Statused, Mitted Opinion, 18-1 Jack, Knill, 20-1 Nitrado Naphres, Soldier's Song, 35-1 others 1997: Telefront S II S R Johnson S-1 R tee D Nitradory 17 mg.

FORM GLIDE

BERLIN BILIE; a fair staying famoloapper on the Flat for Bill Watte, made a pleasing de-but over hurdies at Hurdingdon in Jacuary, finishing fourth of its to Dewn Leader, and he should hipprove sufficiently to win this. He may want a longer the in time. Set libratic has also shaped as though he might apprachate a bit further, test time when fifth of 18 to Be-nature over course and distance (Jack sight langths back in abith). He had run wall be-hind Devon Peasent at Beater and Lord Jim at Chepatow before that and being back on an easier surface will help tim. Spy Knoll, a 30,000gns purchase from Michael Stouts, abowed some promise on his hurding debut when third to Kingadown Tits at Forthwill in early December. A Chester winner on his final start for Stouts, he should score over han-dies before long. Abeliany was also useful on the Flat and did batter than on his burding debut when fourth to Papus at Windert last time. Prospector's Gove did not shape bed-lyon his hurdies debut when fourth to Tissue Of Lies at Plurapton but a line through third-placed Fizzmaurics gives him something to find with Soll Music. Ex-French Nectrices table

planced Fizzmaunice gives him something to find with Sol Music. Ex-French Neck was tabled oft when failing at the lest in The French Fuzze's Chalterham race on his hunding bow in November and will appreciate the drop in class. Time Project has shown shifty both starts.

BROADSTONE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 addad

4 BERLIM BLUE (SID) (A Tuchement, TLABport, T Nail) C Brooks 5 11 5.

08-4U8 JACK (14) (J Harberoll) J Tuck 6 11 5.

PPPOS MALESTONE (21) (R Alach M Aylifle 6 11 5.

AUDED OFWINDN (F169) (C F Jackson) C Jackson 5 11 5.

MUHASSIL (F140) (R W Wilspold K Morgan 5 11 6.

P MINNANS NEPHEW (33) (James Blackerhan) C Egenton 6 11 6.

4 PROSPECTOR'S COVEC (10) (Baracon Racing) (Parties 5 11 5.

55(24) SOUL MISSIC (VI) (The G & P Partiesenthy J King 8 11 5.

THRIES WEEKS (F163) (Edgoote Yacht Clob) M Wildrann 5 11 5.

SPPP COLL PRET (28) (C W Mitchell) C Mitchell 7 11 0.

BSP4- FARMES FAREWELL (2012 Jacks E M V Profund) May 6 England 6 11

nominee on the Horserace To- for one to two days' work a BHB.

month.

colour and we will have to wait attempting to end a frustrating and see the results of a scope run of placed efforts. After a promising second at Wetherby the Julie Camacho-trained gelding looked a likely future winget him. He has got ability but ner but in his two subsequent starts at Sandown and Kempton

> "Well, he runs at Sandown but I don't know how he should be ridden," the trainer's father Maurice Camacho said, "He just comes there cantering but doesn't find anything off the bri-

> Graham Bradley rode Alabang in the Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle at Kempton last

> > He takes up his two-year sp-

4.20 Chism 4.50 Palace Parade

5.20 lamus

The seven-year-old will be Shahrur on the run-in and were next week's Cheltenham Festibeaten four lengths.

"Graham rides him again on a word with him as to how to ride the horse," Camacho said.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Champagne Friend

(Towcester 3.40) NB: Steeple jack (Towcester 4.10) "Brad seems to think we are rid-

front sooner."

appointed by Home Secretary pointment on 1 April and, as a known owner, is the president are part-time non-executive

Jack Straw to serve as the member of the Board, will re- of the Raceborse Owners' As- members, the other two are ex-

If successful on Saturday Alabang may go for the £50,000 bonus put up by Sunderlands

know, maybe he needs to be in

"We would have to go for it Saturday and I'll have to have although I would have considerable reservations about running a horse like Alabang too quick," he added. "His main aims after Saturday are Aintree and the Swinton [at Haydock on 2 May]."

In the ante-post market for the Cheltenham Festival, Space Trucker was the focus of attention yesterday. Coral reported ing him properly but I doo't laying Space Trucker to lose "more than £70,000" in the Arkle Trophy (Novice) Chase and cut the Irish-trained horse's price from 16-1 to 12-1.

Space Trucker has failed to bookmaking firm for the horse . jump fences with any great flu-

The chairman and all the

Savill, 50, who is a well- man and seven members. Five

The Tote Board has a chair- members of the Board are ap-

Eight-year-old Stratus showed some ability on his single previous run over hurdes at New-bury over two years ago, but bumper winner Spring Habe, who finished numer-up to Country Tenguin in the staying handloop hurde on this card last year, makes more ap-peal. He can strip filter for his recent Chapstow run behind Bullens Bay. Selection: BENGERS MOOR

3.20 WINCANTON LOGISTICS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £5,638

P.2985 CHERRYNLIT (97) (D) (Hart & Co (Bouremoust) (Ad) P.Noholis 6 12.0 __Mir J. Tizzand (S) 125.5P CARRIEN (AD) (D) (Plonest Heal-Teatment) N. Herstenson 6 11 10 _____ MA Pitzgerald Fizzand S LINTON ROCKS (26) (D) (RF) (fire Hon Mrs Townshard) P.Noholis 9 11 4 __ R Bessecody 1425U MISTER CRUM (75) (D) (Interior Retained) M. Wildraco 8 11 3 _____ W Missand 6-HJS1 MILLCROFT RWEFA (13) (D) (John Carler) R. Aher 7 104 _____ A Thornton 13/51 ____ COUNTERSALANCE (552) (D) (Dewent Dave Firm) J. McCormochie 11 102 ____ S. McMelli

FORM GUIDE

MILLCROFT RIVIERA may not have had much to best when switched to a handlesp

biful.CHOFT HIVEHA may not neve real much to beet when sweered to a memoracy chase at Kempton test time, but he impressed in beeting Churnel Pastime by a very easy 14 lengths and, related 5th and with just title 4th to carry, will be difficult to beet. Consistent Linton Rocks in the liesly denger and had no easy chance at the weights when fevourte, and a well-besten third to Jibber The Klober in a course and distance conditions chase last time. He had previously run well in third to Speaker Westherfill in Donossists Great Yorkshire Chase, where Garrowice was pulled up. Linton Rocks this had a long way in front of Mileter Drums when runner-up to Catis Regrets at Sandown in December and goos off

or assess trains when runnis-up in Desir Hegress as Sancowin in December and goes on a 25 lower mark. Cestwin, who notched a four-timer in novice company lest season, had run much better behind Potter's Gale at Doncaster before his poor effort there lest time and the return to a shorter trip should help. Cherrywal, stablemate to Lindon Rocks, needs to improve his jumping, while Counterbalance has not run since scoring by a wide mangin at Southwell fast March.

3.50 TOMMY WALLIS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m Penalty Value 23,474

SETTING: 5-2 Direc, 3-1 Alica Interredicest, 7-2 Helons, 11-2 Night Denze, 7-1 Ferrodice, 6-1 Her-hal Floors, 14-1 Secret Service

HALONA, successful on her that two starts this season at Windoor, making all, again at-tempted trord-numbing tectics at Challenham but found Mr Percy and LiOpera a neck and three lengths too good. That was still a good effort and the mane is worth another chance

off the same mark. Dines could finish only a 20-length third (eased) to Getflex in a Chep

stow novice hurdle after his course and distance handlesprein from High in The Courts. He also won a novice hurdle here in November and has every chance to record a third

course and distance win. Alta Internetional is 10th higher than when scoring easily in a four-uniner Haydock race on soft ground. He want on to run wall against in-torre Manitumo at Teurine and was not diagraced in fifth to Gutteridge at Chetlenteen lest time, so enother good show is Susy. Secret Service has yet to shine for his present trainer but is

while this is a significant step up in class for Ferrotino after his second of 20 to African

4.20 DICK WOODHOUSE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,480

- 5 declared -HETTING: 4-5 Nations Worsier, 3-1 Chisrs, 5-1 Some-Roy, 8-1 Young Brave, 33-1 Otter Hiver

1997: Ryming Cupiet 12 12 to Nr I. Jefford (7) 5-1 (M Trickey) 8 ran FORM OUTDE. Once a useful hurdler, NOCIFORM WONDER, took time to get going in point-to-points

test season but wound up winning four times on the trut, namely two points and two hunter chases at Bangot. He impressed making most for times last two wire and should be able to keep up the good work if ressonably straight for this return. Chisse has a fitness ad-

ier ground is not really in his fexour and he tends to find little in front. The 12-year-dids ne-Toy and Young Brave could make a race of it with Nodform Wonder at their best,

down to a good mark. Alight Dunce is Busy to take on Halore up front after Impro

-825 DBBS (10) (CD) (T Chappel T Curry () Nichold P Nichols 6 tl 10....

1867: Northern Stadight 6 11 8 A P McCoy 11-10 fev (M Pipe) 4 ran

21th NODFORM WONDER (289) (D.A. Malaring R. Bavis 11 127 _ 24P-2 SOMETOY (P28) (John Squird) J. Squire 12 127 _ 322-11 CHSMI (P29) (J.R. Webber) L. Alter 7 12 0

BETTING: 4-5 Milleroft Riviers, 7-2 Linkon Rocks, 5-1 Carrocks, 5-1 Mileter Drum, 12-1 Co.

ance, Cherryset 1897; Senor & Betrutti S 12 0 G Bredley 15-8 (Mrs & Nock) 5 cm

sociation and a director of the ecutive members.

combination failed to get to and follows up in any race at days race with a work-out at the Curragh yesterday under bigrace jockey Norman Newmarket yesterday.

> Jessica Harrington, the gelding's trainer, was pleased with the schooling session and hopes the ground will not be too soft at Cheltenham. "Space Trucker jumped very well," she said.

> "A little drier ground would be a help but at least it's the first race on the chase course and we should have the best of the ground. · A year ago Space Trucker was third in the Champion Hurdle but is unraced since oc-

cupying the same place Dardjini on soft going at Leopardstown last December. There were no moves in the

Savill steps into Lord Wakeham's shoes as member of Tote Board

pointed by the Home Secretary. Savill takes over from Lord Wakeham who recently resigned from the BHB after being unable to agree with its

future strategy.

despite outsider Strong Promise working in pleasing fashion at Chris Kinane, assistant to

trainer Geoff Hubbard, said: "I rode him in a gallop with one of our other horses over nine furlongs on what was surprisingly good ground and he worked very well. So, God willing, it's all systems go for Cheltenham now."

Following an encouraging reappearance when a fivelength second to One Man in Ascot's Comet Chase last month Strong Promise was beaten by Go Ballistic when odds-on at Wincanton two weeks later.

Norman Williamson felt that the seven-vear-old was not fit enough at Wincanton but it is more likely that Strong Promise did not stay the trip of three miles and one furlong. If the latter is true, his stamina will certainly expire in the Gold Cup.

The Grey Monk, a more credible Gold Cup contender, will a racecourse gallop between races at Ayr today.

4.50 SPARKFORD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m 6f Penaity Value £2,248

2. 1-245 DYLAMI (29) (Mis P B Bronne) M Pipe 5 12 0 A P McCoy B 2 1-245 NEW LEAF (12) (Mis D J Hual) D Gendolo 6 11 3 R Dormoodly Course of the LEAF (12) (Mis D J Hual) D Gendolo 6 11 3 R Dormoodly Course of the LEAF (12) (Mis D J Hual) D Gendolo 6 11 3 R Dormoodly Course of the LEAF (12) (Mis D J Hual) D Gendolo 6 11 3 R Dormoodly Course of the LEAF (13) (Mis D J Hual) D Gendolo 6 11 3 R Dormoodly Course of the Leaf (13) (Mischell 6 11 4 S McGleall 5 DORM PONTZEDER (16) (D) (EP) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 4 S McGleall 5 DORM PONTZEDER (16) (D) (EP) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell C Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (16) (Mischell 6 11 1 D CONTREDER (17) (Mischell

Allefacen weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Linchane Opts 9st 7th, Mister t

Ministers regists: 10st. Intertunctup reogram.

as Sat Sb, Inner Shu Sat.

BETTING: 7-2 Walten's Deathin; 4-1 New Leat, 6-1 Pulsoe Parade, 13-2 D'Name, 16-1 Ruby Tiv
Postavelra, 12-1 Healthook, 14-1 Viscount Tully, 16-1 Damier Blanc, Rambling Sam, 20
Batters, Brush With Rime, Lunce, 25-1 Panier Stront, Arresalca, 33-1 others

1897: Country Terqun 5 9 11 T Datcombe (3) 16-1 (R Hodges) 20 no
FORM GUIDE

RUBY TWO SHOES has shaped as though there is better to come on her last two starts.

RUBY TWO SHOES has shaped as though there is better to come on her last two starts, finishing seventh of 15 to Molacin at Lalcaster and then fifth of 10 to Supply And Demand thingfield. She was not given a hard time on either occasion. The step up to two and three-quarter miles should suit Rod Milman's mere and she makes some appeal having got into her first handcap with just 10st, Pelece Perade must race of 6 15th higher mark naving beaten Cambo by a convincing seven lengths in 6 Window selling handcap for his first success, but the numer-up boosted the form when going one better at Towcester next time, beating D'mass nine lengths, with Viscount Tuffy two and a half lengths behind in third. D'man has since been beaten only about a length in timt of Peelings at Asoot (stablenesse Demand Blanc well behind) and can egast go close despite top weight. Watter's Destiny had Resubling Sam and Coeur Bettant well behind when scoring over course and distance in Jenuary and followed up off an 8th higher mark at Lingfield, beening North End Lady sky lengths. He is 6th higher again but must be feered in his current form. Perstanted is numering well enough to be involved in the tirish and 8 longer tip will

nn. Pontervedra is numing well enough to be involved in the finish and a longer trip will be New Leaf, a one-paced fifth of 16 to Green Crusader at Haydock (2m 4f) lest time in his return to hurding.

Selection: RUEY TWO SHOES

5.20 SEAVINGTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV II)

1987: Muttad 4 10 fl R Johnson 8-1 (Lady Herries) 17 ran

16 declared 8ETTONS: 5-2 lamus, 7-2 Presider Bay, 8-1 Launkaran, 6-1 Force Divine, 6-1 Sharit, 16-1 Girzbourg,

an advantage for McManus

Snooker

ALAN McMANUS announced his return as a title contender by trouncing Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-1 for a place in the quarterfinals of the Thailand Masters in Bangkok yesterday.

McManus was back to his best and needed only 82 minutes to prevent O'Sullivan, the winner of tast month's Regal Scottish Open, joining the select hand of players to win back-to-back ranking events.

"Tve not played consistently for a year or two now," said the Scot, who has failed to lift a trophy since the 1996 Thailand Masters. "When you get used to playing in semi-finals and finals it isn't much fun getting knocked out early on. There's no doubt in my mind I can still

compete at the highest level." McManus has turned jet lag to advantage by putting in hours of practice in the early hours of the day. "I played for a couple of hours from five o'clock this morning and all the practice has definitely beloed."

McManus, successful in only three of his previous nine meetings with O'Sullivan, was in control through most of the match, only surrendering the initiative in the third frame. He missed a routine pink into the middle pocket and gave O'Sullivan the chance to put together s break of 65, which allowed him to reduce the deficit to 2-1. Results, Digest, page 31

Morgan keeps the flag flying

Badminton

KELLY MORGAN, the Welsh woman who had to leave Britain to make ends meet, became the only British singles player to reach the third round of the All-England Championships io Birmingham yesterday.

The 22-year-old Morgan, who had spells with clubs in Denmark and in France, overwhelmed the Malaysian teenager Law Pei Pei, 11-0, 11-4.

Morgan, who has been able to return to Cardiff since financial help from Lottery funding a year ago, showed that her fitness and confidence have improved dramatically. There was only one hrief period early in the second game, when Law Pei Pei, the Malaysian Commonwealth medal hopeful, led 3-0, that Morgan appeared in danger.

"I was pleased with how I played and just hope I can play even better next time," said Morgan, whose next opponent is the top seed Gong Zhichao, of China.

The leading British men's singles challenger, Darren Hall, was beateo 15-11, 15-1 by the Immus has been consistent without winning over hurdles so far, last time finishing fourth to Beneform over course and distance. He should again run well, but there are a couple of interesting ones against him. Martin Pipe introduces Ferce Divine, a dual winner on the Flet in Prence over the summer. He could well be good enough, but forry McCoy rides LANNUKARAN for Tim Forster. This Shardler getting was a useful stayer on the Flet in Prence for Alain de Royer-Dupre as a three-year-old but were well beginn on his debut for Tim Forster at Ludlow in December when looking to need the run. He clearly has plently the state of the run of the run and the production from Malaysian Wong Choong Hann in the second round. Hall led 10-7 in the first game before a run of errors let in the young of ability and in worth another chance. Premier Bay has been a shade deappointing from two starts over timber for Philip Hobbs but is taking a big drop in class after finishing a well-besten fourth of five to Pataliste in a Grade Two juvenile hurdle at Kempton. He had smart handicap form on the Plat for Peter Harris and should not be written off yet. Shark left-hander and his pace of Bttack proved too much for the nine-times English champion. Results, Digest, page 31

Towcester

HYPERION 2.10 Quiet Moments 2.40 Boots Madden 3.10 Nessun Doro (nb) 3.40 Over The Glen 4.10 Kilmington 4.40 Avostar

2221 BENGERS MOOR (42) (CD) (J R Townshard) P Nichola 7 fl 6...
2234 BENTINE STAR (28) (SF) (Inn McCarthy) Mae H Kright 6 fl 2...
07 STRATUS (707) (Darks Lighting Systems) R Albre 6 fl 2...
SDP TOPPERSULO (SR) (Mar RE Stocked) McComochile 9 fl 2...
1P66 VITAMAN (27) (D) (Larbial Net Hit/Carthambur Vitamine) May J P
1P246 SPRING HEDE (19) (S J M Ryad) B Ryad 6 ft 0 fl

BETTING: 4-9 Bangers Moor, 7-2 Vitamae, 13-2 Spring Habs, 14-1 Stratus, 50-1 TopperSo 1997: Full Of Bounce 6 III 1 T Descontbe \$3, 53-1 (R Hodges) 10 ren PORSE (SUBSE) After good seconds to Wise King and Cyrlor Marta at Sandown, whiching pointer BESMO

Area good socrote to wee and status over course and distance, beating the tenderly-ridden Jam-MOOR justified odds-on status over course and distance, beating the tenderly-ridden Jam-my's Cross 22 lengths. Although he continuelly went to his left, he jumped well enough and that could be the decisive factor against his main rivels, who are making their chas-ing debuts. The clear pick of Bangers Moor's opponents is Vitamen, who landed a Vita-wick nowless' handlesp hurdle by a neck from Line Of Conquest in December, the pair finishing a distance clear. He has twice been well beatin since but has a future over fences.

GOING: Soft (Inspection 7mm). eRight-hand, undusting circuit, Run-In of 140yd. eCourse is on AS SE of town, Bus service from Northernston sta-tion. ADMISSION: Members £12: Tettersells £8; Course £5. CAR IG TRAINERS: O Nicholson 30-70 (429%), K Balley 12-55

QLEADING THANKING ONCOMENTS 1/1/1625%, A SWAY 2600 QLEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire 24-68 (35,3%), N Williamson 14-68 (20,5%), A P McCoy 12-60 (20%), W Marston 12-62 (19%), PEAVOURTIES: 186-74 (39,2%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wanter Square (2.17), September

2.10 HOUGHTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 3m

7 4050 COME ON EILSH (47) J Upion 5 10 12. 1 3-0243 QUIET MOMENTS (73) P Murphy 5 10 8. 6 -552'0 SOUTH WEST EXPRESS (50) II WING 610 6 10 OPSPPP WEAVER SQUARE (17) P Exclus 610 2

—17 declared.—
Minimum weight: 10st. True hexidizes weights: Sheep Penn Set 130, Life Set 120, Beighteny Set 10h, Cambudacci Touth Set 80, Allegor Prince Set 85, 18ETTPNR: 7-8 Be in Spece, 6-1 Other Howards, 6-1 H Habrish, 7-7 Belf-dorers, 8-1 Genery, 10-1 South West Express, Life, Mins Bertslein, 12-1 Bold Leep, 14-1 Weever Square, Sheep Penn, 20-1 others

JOHN WEBBER MEMORIAL NOVICE 2.40 CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 6f CHASE (CLASS E) 24,000 BORGE 2711 61

2 SSE RAMALIAH 69 (CD) (SST) Miss V Williams 6 Ti TO __IN Williamson
2 SSE RAMALIAH 69 (CD) (SST) Miss H Kright 6 Ti Ti ____I Cullety
PA001 SELLY PET (23) C Prognor 5 Ti Ti _____I Cullety
0 A0500 A VERSE TO ORDER (28) Miss P Whitels 7 Ti 3 _____ H Shemit (7)
SSEPPO FASHION MAKER (24) D Nárobson 7 Ti 3 _____ H Johnson
PR-0 F SSEPPO MAKER (25) D Nárobson 7 Ti 3 _____ H Johnson
PR-0 GLACIAH MINE (27) K Bishop 6 Ti 3 _____ R Johnson
PR-0 GLACIAH MINE (27) K Bishop 6 Ti 3 _____ R Johnson
PR-0 GLACIAH MINE (27) K Bishop 6 Ti 3 _____ Y Shellery
1 CHASES MAN OF THE MINICH (28) MIS J Permin 6 Ti 3 _____ R Prognot
D OUP TRETON THOMAS (39) Mis P Pobesson 9 Ti 3 _____ P Hide
1 PIDP-0 PARSONS BELLE (49) Min C Boussen TO TO 12 _____ M Shemits
- Ti declared—

had Ginzbourg three and a half lengths behind in fifth when third to dead-he and Limelight at Taunton, but this looks tougher.

Selection: LA Selection: NODFORM WONDER BETTING: 5-4 Remailan, 5-2 Boots Medden, 4-1 Flying Germer, 6-1 Men Of The Match, 5-1 Stily Put, 14-1 Feeblon Maker, 20-1 others

_Mr J D Moore (7)

3.10 (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m ROYAL MAIL HANDICAP HURDLE

3.40 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR E.B.F. NHY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 23,750 added mares 2m 5f _G Brace (7)

- 5 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Nessus Corp., 7-2 Corps On Perroy, 6-1 Poly Agranatus, 6-1 Torell House, 6-1 Goldwyn, Glammarin, 12-1 Coset Along, 14-1 Hersthorne

00 STEFFHONIC (22) D Sherwood 5 10 7......................... A McCartin

4.10 HARTFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

Jack Set 11th.

BETTING: 11-8 Kilmington, 15-6 Texan Baby, 4-1 Steeple Jack, 7-1 Gold
Pigeon, 16-1 Ballydougan 4.40 BROUGHTON HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 1f

PSF-PI AVOSTAR (7) CD) Ma C Baley 11 12 ______ Mir B Pollock (5) 2 12P-31 LUCKY CHRISTOPHER (Pt2) G J Tarry 13 12 2____ Mir G Tarry (5) 3 355-3 CSICHAPENNY (59 (5) Mar C Bords 13 11 2 JM W Teledight (7) B F P2-530 MERIANE (P2) Mirs C Bordson 13 11 2 JM W Teledight (7) 5 /POP-P SHEER ABELTY (7) (C) R Cooby 12 11 12_ Mirs F-lane Hadiski (7) ___ 5 declared ___ BETTING: 4-5 Avostar, 5-2 Lucky Christopher, 8-1 Calchapency, 5-1 Mediane, 14-1 Sheer Ability

Carlisle

HYPERION 2.00 Vital Issue 2.30 Super Sandy 3.00 Astro Lines 3.30 Burnt Imp 4.00 Rallegio 4.30 Dorlin Castia 5.00 Gus Cunningham

GOING: Heavy (Soft in pieces).

GOING: Heavy (Soft in pieces).

GRight-hand, undusting course. Run-in of 250yds.

GRight-hand, undusting course. Run-in of 250yds.

GROUSE is on southern outskirts of town, 4m W of junction 42 of ME Bus service from Carliste station 2m, ADMISSION: Cub of ME Bus service from Carliste station 2m, ADMISSION: Cub of ME Bus service from Carlistes (CAP & Lunder-21s 20).

CAR PARK: On rais 52 (including occupants); persender free CAR PARK: On rais 52 (including occupants); persender free CAR PARK: On rais 52 (including occupants); persender free Service (SA), GRIGHERS (SA), GRIGHERS (SA), GRIGHERS (SA), GRIGHERS (SA), A Dobble 24-35 (SA), A Dobble 24-35 (SA), A Storey 20-166 (SA), P Carberry 12-36 (SA), GRIGHERS (SA), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.00 BORDER ESK 'NATIONAL HUNT' added 3m 110yds

PS-4FU SPRINGLEA TOWER (\$1) R Next 5 Tt 2 ______ S Harding 11-44 - VITAL ISSUE (12) (ID) J J ONNIE 8 Tt 3 ______ P Carbony - 6 declared BETTING: 8-13 Vital lateur, 4-1 Hurst Plyer, 73-2 Format Table, 12-1 Hatunit Tablect, 14-1 Mr Walt, 23-1 Monotony, 33-1 Springing Towns, 50-1 Diver

2.30 DERWENT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

3.00 BOB MILLICAN DIAMOND BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds ## 11 Dyds

1 -2552 GLE-BOWER (20) (D) M Harmond 6 11 8 Mir C Bonner (d)

2 4 GTTSRN (15) Miss L Fuend 8 11 2 D Reid (7)

5 5 DESTINCT (26) A Whitener 5 11 2 B Survey

4 00-555 GUEENS SRIGADE (35) F Watron 6 11 2 B Harding

6 F1044 ASTRO LINES (7) F Marphy 4 10 10 P Carbony

-5 doctored - BETTING: 8-11 Astro Lines, 6-4 Glenbowne, 10-1 Citiers, 12-1 Queens

Briganio, 25-1 Distinct

FOUNDAMENT WOOLLEN MILL NOVICE 3.30 CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110 yels - 5 declared -BETTING: Evens Elvegray, 5-4 Bornt Insp, 19-1 Sniper, 12-1 Always A Pac-per, 26-1 Aide Memoire, 25-1 Torus Spa

4.00 WAYER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 2m 1f P22144 RALLEGIO (35) (CD) P Normith 9 11 1 364,03 ADMANCE EAST (25) M Dods 6 11 6.

Minimum weight: 16st, Trus handkap weights: One Stop Sat 7fb, Tempted Sat 760. BETTING: 5-1 Radiagio, 7-2 Paleos Of Gold, 4-1 Ambidiatoroms, 18-2 Juny-bo Star, 6-1 One Stop, 9-1 Advance East, 10-1 Eben All Haboeb, 12-1 Pay-nel Clay, 14-1 Current Speach, 86-1 Thrapted 4.30 GOLDEN PHEASANT YOUNGERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 2f

SETTER TIMES AHEAD (6) (D) G Richards 12 12 6 (Bed) 2 224PU CELIDH BOY (5) (C) Mrs. J Goodelow 2 11 2 _____B Slore

Minimum weight: 19st, True handlose weight: Farmer Glan Sal Sh. BETTING: 7-4 Dorder Castle, 3-1 Beller Times About, 7-2 Pales, 4-1 Cellich

5.00 LIDDEL WATER IN LINES H) 21,500

BUS CURRENGHAM (30) (CD) Mis M Reveloy 6 11 11 _ G Lee ROSSMAR Lits S Smith 6 11 4 中 STEEL RIGG (25) Max A Hamilton 6 11 4 Mr L Tample (7) — 6 declared — BETTINS: Evice Clar Cumulaghers, 5-4 Sunthyne Spe 12-1 Rosentic, 14-1 Hackley Dancer, 33-1 Steel Rig

ford Reds.

Offiah one try from history Rugby League

MARTIN OFFIAH, the London Broncos winger, is planning to continue playing into the millennium and is set to become the third leading try-scorer of all time. He is enjoying his game so much that he is already considering extending his career beyond his 33rd birthday. Offiah, who goes into Sun-

day's Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final with Hull KR at The Stoop needing just one more try to move into joint fourth in the all-time list - equalling the former Wakefield, Hunslet, Bradford and Featherstone player Eric Batten's tally of 443 triessigned a new two-year deal with the Broncos at the end of last

That followed his decision to end his rugby union commitments with Bedford and eoabled him to enjoy his first break from rugby since the summer of 1995. Offiah said: "I signed a new two-year contract at the end of last season and I thought that would have to be it. But the way I feel now I can't really see myself retiring at tha end of next season."

The former Great Britain forward Lee Crooks has been confirmed as the new coach of Keighley while Phil Hassan, the Leeds threequarter, has completed a loan move to Sal-

They fail to understand that football is nothing without passion

FOR years, I have had a secret amlegislative heads together.

This earnest desire surfaced again that a foul tackle delivered from behind in the World Cup finals would ginally wrong through an angle of 180 degrees an I you're off.

You only have to ponder the edict football's global development. for a moment to infer what it implies: a game ultimately without physical

That is where the interpretation tory was made possible by ruthless hition in life. It isn't to sail around of the laws against foul play now acts of intervention. the world, pilot a jet, shoot a hole stands, and a very rocky stance it is, in one or hit a winning streak in Las and will remain so as long as there ball in the 1974 finals would not have Vegas. It's to bang some of football's are people, often highly intelligent been possible without the aggression in is detrimental to the entertainment. Neeskens and Wim Van Hanegem, last week with the announcement by When compulsory cautions for fouls who could be relied on to regain Fifa, football's world governing body, from behind were introduced at the World Cup finals in the United of Brazil's brilliant attacking surges States four years ago. Fifa's policy re- in the 1970 finals, had to be apresult in instant dismissal. Get it marsulted in a ludicrous proliferation of proached with the utmost care and yellow cards, depleted teams and a anyone who attempted to intimidate betrayal of principles important to Pele was asking for trouble.

Nobody in their right mind condones violent play and there is o stact, in no time all challenges for clearly room for more intelligent inthe ball are effectively to be supthrilling foothall in World Cup his- of commercial possibilities.

The orange glow of Dutch foottypes, who believe that putting a foot of two militant midfielders, Johan possession. Gerson, the mainspring

> After many years of devoted research, and in common with people involved more directly in the game, I still have no clear idea of Fifa policy beyond it's relentless exploitation



On the face of it, you might suppose that nothing Fifa attempts is more commendable than making life easier for the artist. But we should not forget that the greatest attackattention to their advantage. "If I trade, would see this as a big step thunderous challenge (perhaps ducould reach back and feel the mark- in the right direction. What they fail bious in today's climate) on Brazil's an urgent priority.

Denis Law said in his heyday. Get- to it than virtuosity although any old ting tight with Law carried other timer will tell you that there is as

What prompted this sympathy for body swerve. the man in possession? The imagvision paymasters?

I suspect, in the growing and perhaps can get like that if teams don't conirreversible conviction of its gov- test the hall at every available opeming body that tackling should disportunity. appear from the agenda.

ing it easier for me to spin off him," ing without passion. There is more penalties too, all of them painful. much art in tackling as there is in a

Some years ago I watched a ined perceptions of a new audience march in the Uefa Cup between Totor the belief that football must be tenham and a team from the then tailored to the demands of its tele- Yugoslavia whose name now escapes me. Both played possession football The clue to football's future lies, to the point of boredom. The game

Apart from anything else tackling Doubtless, plenty of people who bas provided some memorable mofollow the game today, some in my ments in football. Bobby Moore's

er I knew he was in too close, making it essier for the to understand is that football is nothing it essier for the too close, making it essier for the close fo World Cup finals. There was plenty to admire in Franco Baresi's forceful defending for Milan and Italy. Nobby Stiles's aggression was vital to England's success in the 1966 World Cup.

The thought that they and other notable defenders from the past would quickly incur Fifa's wrath if they were turning out today suggests that the game's popularity is at risk from muddled thinking.

Doubtless, coaches are giving a great deal of thought to the implication of Fifa's directive. They had better make learning how to cope

High stakes in Atherton's big challenge

By Derek Pringle in Bridgetown, Barbados

AS SPORTS psychologists are fond of reminding us, happy memories play a crucial part in sporting success. Yet if the edicts of science can sometimes fall down in the minds of the sceptical, this is one theory that Michael Atherton and his team will be hoping to prove beyond

Trailing 2-1 with two Tests left to play, the captain knows that only a repeat of England's stirring victory at the Kensington Oval four years ago can keep his side in with a chance of securing one of cricket's holy grails: winning a series in the Caribbean.

For Atherton, and in particular any aspirations he may have of continuing as England captain, the match is even more crucial. The Lancashire man has had many sticky moments in his career as skipper, but none will have appeared quite as stark as the one facing him over the next few days. Win and both he and England have a good chance of surviving the series. Lose and he will almost certainly resign, perhaps renouncing his lead-

ership of the one-day squad, too. This tour will complete a four-year cycle for Atherton, who, although somewhat eclipsed by Alec Stewart's two role in England's win with a fine innings of 85. On that occasion, the England captain was among that has not happened so far this tour, though he is not alone in that respect and Graham Thor-

pe is also overdue some runs. As he did in New Zealand Atherton has tried to sort out by spending time in the nets rather than in the middle against Barbados. It is a decision that has times over the last week, that positive."



Bridgetown, also played a major criticism has tended to be hys-

haps look promising once again the runs generally, something for a repeat of four years ago potentially seven of that side could also play again this time - the circumstances differ vastly. With the series at stake, England cannot afford to lose, last winter, it is a shortfall that something they had already conceded by the time Barbados had come round last time.

is a crunch match for us," said not escaped criticism and right- Atherton yesterday. "It will be ly so, though with his parents nice to be back at the ground

Acknowledging the huge terical rather than objective. influx of England supporters

And yet if the omens perthat now tend to appear for the Barbados Test. Atherton said: got last time will be repeated." It was a sentiment later echoed by Stewart, who reckoned that the atmosphere when he and Atherton last walked out to bat here was "almost better than a home game".

"There is no doubt that this art is given the gloves in place of Jack Russell, is the two-spinner role tried in Georgetown. Inand girlfriend here at various and we are definitely feeling stead, Andy Caddick will return, probably in place of Phil Tufnell,

whose five wickets in the last

For the first time in the "I'm sure the great support we series, the pitch looks as if it has with the hig hitting Philo Walsurface. But if England's batsa sigh of relief, their bowlers may What is not likely to be not be so pleased, and local punrepeated, however, unless Stew-

hie century from Brian Lara. Even so, the new ball will bounce steeply and whichever Pakistan played here in 1977. side dominates the opening skirmishes - either by bat or ball

three Tests has been overhauled course of the match. But if this a habit of putting their oppo- to extend his tenure. by Robert Croft in one match, suggests grittily contested beginnings, think again, and been lovingly prepared - what lace and the expansive Clayton Stewart calls "a proper Test Lambert set to open the batting wicket" - with grass cuttings for the West Indies, the first few

rolled well into a so far smooth overs will be anything but dull. Even so, with both sides' men may well feel like emitting bowlers so far reliant upon generous help from the pitches, many feel that the game dits are already predicting a dou- could well be a draw. History is against this outcome and the last draw on this ground came when

> If there is a pattern that recent history upholds, it is that

-could well go on to control the the team winning the toss has formance here in 1994 if he is

-With the series not yet decided and West Indies, particularly Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, far from com-10 times, a ploy that has yield- placent, it may be the createst test of his captaincy. It is certainly the most pressing, and the provide pace bowlers with on next few days will see if the great survivor can add some belated glory to his longevity by winning here and taking the series into

the final Test in Antigua,
England (probable): M Atherton (capt), A
Stewart, M Butcher, N Hussein, G Thorpe,
M Hamprelssein, H Aussein (with, R Cord, A
Caddick, D Headley, A Frase.
West Indies (from): P Walleon, C Lambert,
A Lara (capt), S Chanderpast, C Lambert,
A Lara, D Williams (wid), C Ambrose, N
McLeen, D Rammarine, C Walen, R Holder,
I Blattop. Persuaded against his better judgement to continue as captain five months ago, Atherton knows he must resurrect the spirit and level of England's per-

Partying Pakistan pair sent home

PAKISTAN have sent two fast bowlers, Shoaib Akhtar and Fazal-e-Akbar, home from their tour to South Africa for disciplinary reasons.

The team made the decision yesterday after Pakistan suffered an embarrassing 259-run defeat to South Africa at the third Test in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday.

The captain, Rashid Latif, blamed the defeat on a lack of commitment by the team's senior players and came down hard on them behind closed doors. Some players, including senior team members, were caught partying until the early hours of the morning during the third Test.

"We have decided to send back Shoaib Akhtar and Fazale-Akbar back home on the next available flight," Rushid said. "We will not be replacing

"We have to set an example at some time, or else Pakistan cricket is never going to he the disciplined force it should be in world cricket.

"I have made it clear to the senior players, enough is enough. I want total commitment and discipline during a match on the field, and if that is lacking, then there is no shortage of talent back home."

Shoaib was dropped from his maiden tour with the senior team to Canada, after being reported for drunken hehaviour on Pakistan's A team tour of

England India's victory over Australia in the first Test in Madras has caused controversy, with the South African match referee Petervan den Merwe asking for video review of Rajesh

Chauhan's bowling action. The action of the off-spinner was given the all-clear recently from the International Cricket Council.

Another black day as Henman is beaten again

TIM HENMAN is facing a new crisis after going out of the Champions' Cup in Indian Wells, California, in the first round on Tuesday.

The British No 2 appeared to have regained his touch after a dismal run when he reached the quarter-finals of the recent Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea. But the world top of the rankings by cruising Evert Cup, also at Indian Wells.

the drawing board after slumpqualifier Wayne Black, a player ranked 60 places below him.

"I need a better game plan." Henman said. "How many times did I come to the net. Single digit number. And when did I start? 6-3, 5-2 down. I need to be able to change my tactics." Pete Sampras celebrated his

No 19 will have to go back to into third round with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Todd Martin. The ing 6-3, 6-4 to the Zimhabwean defending champion, Michael Chang, withdrew from the event with a sprained left knee.

Steffi Graf, who has confirmed her entry for the Direct Line Insurance Championships at Eastbourne the week before Wimhledon, continued her comeback in style when she beat Natasha Zvereva 6-3, 6-0 to

100th consecutive week at the reach the semi-finals of the

Rugby Union

IEUAN EVANS, the Wales and Lions wing, has retired from international rugby after an outstanding 11-year Test

There comes a time when enough is enough," Evans, who is 34 next week, said. There comes a time when logic, not emotion, dictate your future plans and to turn my back on this game will leave a huge void.

immediately.

Winger Evans hangs up his Test boots

Evans, who crossed the line a record 33 times in 72 appearances for Wales, has played only once for his country since . March 1997 - against Italy five weeks ago - cwing to a combiyour body and mind cries out nation of injuries and Lions commitments. During his career he has suffered five shoulder dislocations, a broken leg and dislocated ankle.

"Twe been putting my body under greater pressure as the years have moved on. Recovering from injury has been an mous respect for him as a player But to fulfil both club and increasing problem," said and a person. He has had an incountry training commitments. Evans, who last summer left credible international career

summer tour to South Africa and with only two championship matches left it would be unfair to everyone concerned to

nents in, mainly with dire con-

sequences. In fact since 1986,

captains winning the toss have

seen fit to put the opposition in

ed only a single success despite

the help this pitch is believed to

land and their captain badly:

need to win this game.

Wherever the toss falls, Eng-

the first morning.

attempt to carry on." Evans will play for Bath for another 18 months and then call it a day. "I don't think coaching is for me," he said. "Once I've put my boots away, that will

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said: "Ieuan will be sorely missed. I always had enor-

had 102 caps. His absence will leave a hig hole."

Gerald Davies, one of the Welsh rugby greats, said: "leuan would have shone in any generation of Welsh rugby. He had an athlete's pace and could play off his feet. As captain he did everything possible to sustain his country's proud reputation."

Evans, who made his in-ternational debut against France in 1987, captained Wales a record 28 times and led them to the 1994 Five Nations title. His 33 tries puts him fifth on rugby union's all-time list behind David Serge Blanco and John Kirwan.



Awarded an MBE in 1996. Evans was three times a Lions tourist - Australia (1989), New Zealand (1993) and South Campese, Rory Underwood. Africa (1997) - making seven Test appearances for the side,

黑 SNOW REPORTS

from 200+ resorts in Europe and North America.

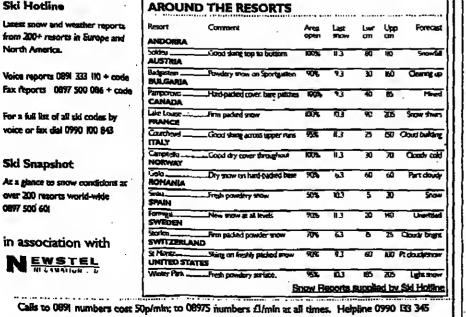
Ski Hotling

Fax reports 0897 500 086 + code For a full list of all ski codes by

voice or fax dial 0990 100 843 **Ski Snapshot**

0897 500 60; in association with N EWSTEL

over 200 resorts world-wide



was simply too much of a bur- Llanelli after 14 years to join and, but for injury, would have den. One had to go and it was Bath. "I have already stated that international rugby." I wouldn't be part of the Wales

"International rugby has had a massive influence on my life.

Wales relieved as kicker Jenkins receives all-clear

NEIL JENKINS has been giv- Pontypridd rogby administrator,

en a clean hill of health and is Eddie Jones, said. "He is suffering from nothset to be named today by Wales to play at stand-off against Ire- ing more than the cut and some bruising and he has been land in their Five Nations' Championship match at Lanstold he can play this weekend when we face Neath in the downe Road on Saturday week. semi-finals of the WRU Chal-

In last Saturday's 19-13 victory over Scotland at Wembley. lenge Trophy. "However, we are unlikely to Jenkins was forced off after 19 play Neil as he won't be having minutes with a gash near his eye amid fears of more serious the stitches out until the weekend but he will certainly be fit damage. But, after two X-rays, for the international." the Wales coach, Kevin With Jenkins declared fit,

Bowring, has been told that the Bowring is likely to turn his atgoal-kicker is fit to resume tentions to the pack where he does have options for change. clear by the medical staff," the The Swanses prop Chris An-

his club and Wales A and must flanker. be pushing David Young hard for the tighthead role.

Anthony has yet to start a match for Wales after four appearances as a replacement but the 21-year-old is such an outstanding prospect his chance should come sooner rather than

Scott Quinnell, too, could well make the starting line-up this time, the Richmond No 8 coming on as a replacement at. League. Wembley. If Quinnell is hack in favour it could be at the expense coaching staff until the end of

thony has been in fine form for his customary berth at hlind-side

Willie Anderson, sacked last month as the London Irish coach, has swapped one struggling team for another by returning to his former club, **Dungannon**.

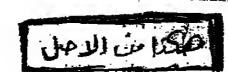
The former Ireland captain, a cult figure at Stevenson Park for almost 20 years, has two games to steer Dungannon clear of relegation from Division One of the All-Ireland

Anderson has joined the of Rob Appleyard, with Colin the season, but that only com-Charvis switching from No 8 to prises matches against Old

Crescent and Clontarf, which Dungannon must win to have any chance of surviving in Irish rugby's top tier.

The former international centre Ian Jardine wili return for Stirling County in their Tennents Premiership clash with Boroughmuir on Saturday in the hope of reclaiming his place in the Scotland A sct-up.

The 32-year-old has recovered from the hamstring problem which forced him off against France A nearly three weeks ago and aims to prove his fitness before the shadow Grand Slam decider with England on Friday week.



Pressure hits new pitch for Gascoigne

JUDGED by his wedding garb Paul Gascoigne always fancied himself as royalty so it is perhaps appropriate that he finds himself being courted by Palace.

But Crystal Palace seem destined for relegation from the Premiership and while Gasthe attraction is unlikely to be mutual. While even the most bumble of the First Division theatres may be better than some be bas trod in Scotland, the thought of his undoubted if flickering talent being cast into the Nationwide burly-burly is nnt an edifying one, Paul Merrepertory but Georgi Kinkladze bas been restricted to cameo roles, thus the apparent loan nent transfer.

Gascoigne must be feeling very vulnerable at present. Footballers are never at their. the team better. Whether the best when injured - be has a move is good for Gascoigne is instead. hamstring problem - and the another matter. He needs discovery that be is not wanted by his club will bardly belp. For all his ebullience, Gascoigne's confidence can be fragile and it pleting just four of Rangers' last castle or Middlesbrough would will have come as a shock to dis- 16 games), but playing for a bring him back to the North-east cover that Rangers, though struggling to retain the Premiership title, are prepared to brings the problems of a Lonlet him go before the season's don lifestyle.

bas been taken as much by the rest on whether they can also at he would be building up to the board and the future manager, tract Terry Venables. The pair Dick Advocaat, as by the cur- have a natural rapport, even if football (and no guarantee of rent one, Walter Smith, Advo- Glenn Hoddle has hinted, none promotion), but could play in the

Now the England midfielder is not wanted at Rangers he must choose a new club carefully. Glenn Moore considers the possibilities

coigne has a nationwide appeal a 30-year-old with a history no favours. of injury and unpredictable behaviour, is too good to turn

> They may not be the only will be dead money - there is no sell him on in a few years' time.

traction for Palace. His acquiprofile of the club - and the ap- and, although Gascoigne wantparently headline-loving Mark ed to go to Anfield, Dalglish Goldberg - and it should make said he would have to wait a games to make the World Cup (poor form, injury and suspension bave reduced him to compoor Palace side will not do him much good this season. It also

Palace's chances of landing It would appear this decision Gascoigne permanently surely caat elearly does not want too subtly, that Venables "in-

Gascoigne and the board thus dulgence" of his occasionally feel the prospect of a deal for wayward star did Gascoigne

Newcastle United have also been mentioned. The romantic choice is Newcastle - especialones to feel Gascoigne would be ly as Gascoigne would be eligiover-priced. His wages will not ble for the FA Cup. Gascoigne be cheap, nor the insurance pre- may seem an unlikely addition miums on his fitness. Any fee to Kenny Dalglish's dull Roundheads, but the Newcasson may be starring in football's real prospect of being able to the manager did try to sign Gascoigne for Liverpool from It is possible to see the at- Newcastle in 1988. Then the problem was money, Liverpool deal rather than a full, perma-sition would certainly raise the could not afford the £2m fee

> That was a decade ago, though, and Gascoigne's inability to avoid trouble was not then obvious. Playing for either Newwhich might ease his peace of mind or, more likely, see him involved in one scrape after another - especially if he chose Boro in preference to Newcastle. If he did go to Middlesbrough World Cup with First Division Coca-Cola Cup final.



Rangers? Palace? Newcastle? Paul Gascoigne's prime concern is playing for England in France

prospect. Smith may have the lengers. personality to bring the best

Hoddle will obviously be inrise to the challenge of turning Hoddle has repeatedly stressed starter for the friendly in March.

Derby, under the guidance an attractive and promising his faith in Gascoigne but if he Switzerland on 25 March, leavof Jim Smith, are an interesting polyglot side into real chalism of playing, and playing well, ing just three international it will be bard to pick him for the World Cup. As it is, his infrom Gascoigne, who could terested in Gascoigne's decision. jury makes him a doubtful the transfer deadline is 26

matches until the finals.

Any move must be soon -

City manager Brian Horton,

ball, John King, and Fulham

action for three more weeks.

surgery in Birmingham last

until the end of the month.

ing up the possibility of a re-

serve game in the next week,"

Tranmere's director of foot-

now in charge at Brighton.

Berger and Liverpool set for parting of the ways City have March

bome to Prague tomorrow. It White Hart Lane. means the Czech Republic infor the match at Tottenham on to see my family. Everything Saturday and it is the elearest now is in the hands of my indication that the forward may have played his last game for the Anfield elub.

tute last weekend against Bolton, and then had a meeting with the join Benfica, although Roma mand to be allowed to join his monitoring the situation. countryman Karel Poborsky at former Liverpool manager, Graeme Souness.

Evans was upset by Berger's in Lisbon." reaction and left the former

Berger said: "I am going to

at bome in Prague for the green Berger refused to be substi-Berger desperately wants to

manager, Roy Evans, over his de- and several Spanish clubs are

has been given permission to fly was available for the game at aiming to raise money with a stock market flotation in the erpool do not have a Premier- allowed to leave after the cirsummer, and have been anable ship match for a fortnight cumstances of last weekend's reternational is out of contention leave on Friday to go to Prague to pay the bulk of the fee to Manchester United for Poborsky.

> Sources has been trying to agent, be is looking after every, sell players to help raise some thing and I will be on standby cash to meet Liverpool's £4m valnation of Berger, who defined their position, he has been belp- Evans said, them from Bonassa Documents and the no problems with Berger jo after the European Champlonships in England when the

Czechs reached the final. Benfica have got to the last Berger said: "Benfica would day of March to complete the Souness, like Jamie Redknapp, Benfica, who are managed by the be my first choice. My wife is deal because that is when the Steve McManaman and Robbie Hungary for the next four years, friends with Karel's wife and she Portuguese transfer system clos-

has told us bow good it is to live es for signing non-EC players. If the deal cannot be com- be is OK." The problem for Berger is pleted by then, Berger will

because of internationals, and quest not to be on the bench Berger bas been given a nineday break in Prague.

He said: "I have talked to Roy Evans and he understands are looking for firm offers," him on a personal basis. We are than two years ago for £3.5m still friends.

"I bave talked to the Liver- ey back, at least. pool players who know Graeme The former goalkeeper Berta-Fowler, who have worked under him and they have told me

After the Spurs game, Liv- cepted that the player would be against Bolton.

"I only want players who want to play for this club and we

Berger joined Liverpool less and Liverpool want their mon-

lan Bicskei will be coach of it was reported yesterday. The presidium of the Hungarian football federation elected the Evans said earlier in the 53-year-old by secret ballot yes-Borussia Dortmund player to that Benfica have serious fi- have to wait until the summer week that Berger could not terday to replace Janos Csank.

Gregory determined to keep Staunton at Villa

defender that the club can provide him with success.

Staunton could secure a lucrative deal at the end of the season when be can quit Villa devastated if Steve Staunton deon a free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

However, Gregory is desperate to hold on to Staunton and has two months to show the ever I can to keep him. 29-year-old Republic of Ireheading in the right direction.

Gregory said: "I've only

only taken two games to remind

ince Steve Staunton to sign a made when be came on as a new contract by persuading the substitute after injury against Atletico Madrid in the Uefa Cup last week. He is a worldclass distributor of the ball.

"To be bonest, I would be a player I rate really highly. I've bad a brief chat with him since I came back but I will do what-

"It's not just about money. land international that Villa are Steve wants to be at a club that wins things which was something he was used to during his been back two weeks but it bas days at Liverpool. We've got to convince Steve in the next few David Johnson boosted his

to be thinking of bringing in top interoational players.

"I don't know what his decision will be but it will take a very big elub to prise him away Villa are believed to have

cided to leave Aston Villa. He's offered Staunton a contract which would make bim the highest paid player at the club but be has been frustrated by a domestie season of underachievement, with early exits from the Coca-Cola and FA Cups and a battle against rele-

The Inswich Town striker

THE Aston Villa manager, me what a great player Steve is. weeks that we are heading in the growing reputation as one of the erwise uninspiring goalless John Gregnry, will try to con- You could see the difference be right direction - and we've got most promising young strikers draw, but was denied on both ocoutside the Premiership with a man-of-the-match performance for the Football League's Under-21 side in a goalless draw

against their Italian Scrie A

counterparts. Johnson timed the moment at which to shine to perfection, with the impressive crowd of 6,558 at Charlton Athletic's Valley ground including the England coaching assistant, John Gorman, and the technical consultant, Jimmy Armfield.

The Jamaican-born former Manchester United youth player had the two best chances in break the deadlock in an oth-

casions by good reaction saves from the Italian goalkeeper Christian Abbiati, of Monza.

The representative side's manager, Alan Curbishley, said: "At least one or two of the players have out of the game with flying colours. David Johnson caught the eye. He is a delight to work with, be's very bubbly and be's on top of his game at the moment."

Johnson, 21, bas scored 24 goals so far this season, with most coming during Ipswich's recent First Division promotion push after his move from Bury last November.

LIVERPOOL'S Patrick Berger decide for himself whether be nancial problems. The club is or leave to join another club. leave "on the cheap", but he as-

REPRESENTATIVES from Rotherham, and the former more than 30 clubs attended Manchester City's reserve match against Coventry City at Altrincham on Tuesday as Joe Royle launched a March sale scout Jimmy Conway, plus repto try to trim his massive resentatives from Middles-200 20 3 3 may squad.

The new Maine Road manager is desperate to shift a number of transfer-listed players before the 26 March bargains. deadline and is prepared to accept reduced offers for several expensive signings or even allow them to be transferred without a fee. Royle was at the game together with his assistant, Willie Donachie, to handle any po- after five operations and 14 tential deals.

There were almost as many club representatives as supporters and it was standing room only in the half-time refreshment room in the main stand

"We are trying to move people on. There was a lot of people watching our reserves and we will see what develops from

there." Royle said. "I have sent a circular round clubs and we are prepared to make players very cheap or as

Royle wants to sell included Nigel Clough, Paul Beesley, Jason Van Blerk, Touy Vaughan, Gerry Creancy, Neil Heaney, Tony Scully and Martin Phillips. Managers there to watch

free transfers to belp them on their way. We now must wait to see what happens." The players on show that

"This last 12 months bas been a bit soul-destroying at

be said.

"I can't wait to start playing again but anything I get out of a bouus because it's now going to be the start of April before I'm ready for any action.

"It's next season that is going to be very big for me, when I will be wanting to make up for lost them included West Bromwich's time, and I will work right Denis Smith, Ronnie Moore, of through the summer."

PSV put £I5m price tag on Stam

By Rupert Metcalf

IAAP STAM, widely regarded as one of the best centre-backs in Europe, could be on his way to Manchester United.

However, if the 25-year-old Durch international is to join the Old Trafford playing pool, his club, PSV Eindhoven, will have to drop their asking price.

The champions of the Netherlands want £15m for Stam, who is in the first year of a sixyear contract. United's chairman, Martin Edwards, said: "We made an inquiry to PSV nn. " Thesday and let's say there was

a difference in valuation." United bave also been linked with Roma's midfielder. Francesco Totti, but Edwards denied that they had made an official inquiry.

The Manchester City manager, Joe Royle, has told the for- . . mer England forward Peter Beardsley that be can return to Bolton Wanderers after his loan

spell at Maine Road. "I thanked Peter for his efforts, but with Georgi Kinkladze fit again we can't play both in the team," Royle said. "I also." need to create a loan vacancy for another player, and bope to do something in that direction soon." West Ham's midfield schemer Ian Bishop is on Royle's list and could return on .loan for the rest of the season for his second spell at City.

Royle has let the experienced centre-back Paul Beesley join West Bromwieb on loan, ... while the left-back Jason van Blerk is talking to both West Bronwieb and Wigan. Albion have also signed the former Liverpool defender Steve Nicol on loan from Sheffield Wednesday.

Lincoln City have formally confirmed the sacking of their manager, John Beck. The announcement came following a. board meeting between Beck, ... who was suspended last week, his legal adviser, and City's

brough, Sunderland, Cardiff. board of directors. ... Carlisle, Millwall, Luton, Stock-"This now clears the way for us to finalise a replacement for port, Plymouth, Bury and Mac-Jobn Beck in the very near fuclestield were also looking for ture," Lincoln's chairman, John The Coventry defender Liam Reames, said. "His dismissal follows three very serious Daish has suffered another inbreaches of contract which we. jury setback and will be out of as directors, felt left us no Daisb bad targeted a come-

alternative course of action." back in the reserves this week Stoke City's former Celtic defender, Mark McNally, could be on his way back to Scotland months out of action with a in a £60,000 move to Dundee damaged cruciate ligament in his left knee. But be had more

United. The Republic of Ireland night after injuring his other manager, Mick McCarthy, has . included eight uncapped players in his 22-man squad for the knee in training and will be put "This is frustrating. The left

friendly against the Czech Re-

knee now is fine and I was eyepublic in Olomouc on 25 March. The new faces are the defenders Stepben Carr (Tottenham), Alan Maybury (Leeds) and Phil Hardy (Wrexham), the midfielders Graham Kavanagh (Stoke), Mark Kinsella (Charlton) and Rory Delap (Derby), as well as the teenage forwards this season in that sense will be Robbie Keane (Wolves) and

Damien Duff (Blackburn). Keane and Duff are certain to play at some stage of the game. McCarthy gave this promise as both players could have been in action against Greece in a European Youth Championship qualifier on the same night.

21 %

Sporting Digest

ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (Birmengham): Men's second round: P Gade
Cristansen (Den) bt Fung Permad (Taw)
55 5-12; Sun Jun (Ch) bt D Palyama (Nem)
58 15-5; H Hendrawan (Indon) bt P Janum
(Den) 5-17 55-18-13; Ong Ewe Hock
(Malley) bt A Supta (Ind) 5-4 5-4; I Saman
(Malley) bt T Sogned (Den) 17-18 15-5; Yong
Hock Kin (Malley) bt K Tetranov # 1-5; Yong
5-1; Chen Hone (Tak) (pan) 5-17 5-3 5-5 1-5 1-5 19 5-4; I Seman (balley) bt T Sogaard (Den) 17-18 15-5; Yong Hock (Rn (Matley) bt Rein) 7-18 15-5; Yong Hock (Rn (Matley) bt Reinrore (Uku) 5-4 5-1; Chen Hong (Ch) bt I Wilaya (Indon) 5-7 5-10; Fe Hoyes-Larsen (Den) bt R Kuyntan (Bel) 15-4 15-7; P Goptchand (Ind) bt K Fangel (Den) 15-4 15-7; P Goptchand (Ind) bt K Fangel (Den) 15-5 18-12; A Wirharts (Indon) bt R Heashm (Matley) 11-5 15-4 15-7; Luc Y Igang (Ch) bt N C Kaldeu (Den) 10-18 15-5 15-1; R Sidek (Motay) bt M Constable (Eng) 15-7 15-3; Chen Gang (Ch) bt A Boesen (Den) 8-15 15-8 15-3; H Arbt (Indon) bt M Wing (Matley) 5-3 15-2 Winnersh Selected round: Gong Zhichao (Ch) bt M Somethen (Den) 11-6 11-4; K Morgan (Wal)

Football results

NONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First DI-

Tuesday's resultos
MATONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Sunderland : (Leftrustor) Britishon: Sunderland : (Leftrustor) Britishon: 50, Second Division: State Theen.

1 (Remeas 25) Vork 2 (Lemas 30, Creaswell 72,
Third Division: Concaster 1 (Rows 55) Scarbortuph 2 (Campbel 37, Rockett 84, Peakbortuph 2 (Campbel 37, Rockett 84, Peakportish League: Under-21 X 0 haby Serie 3
Under-21 X 0 (at the Valley, Charton), Autovindercene Shield Morthern Bard first leg:
Grasby 1 (Grouss 78, Burrioy 1 (Payton C3),
Southern final first leg: Walsald 0 Securations

2 (Bulling 0, Beandamons 30, Bellin Scottish
Legges Second Division: Forter 1 (House) and

175) Inverteds CT 2 (Shourin 19, 23), Postland of the South Third Division: Mortocal

176 Inverteds CT 2 (Shourin 19, 23), Post
176 Inverted Shouring Charton.

177 Inverted Shouring Charton.

178 Inverted Shouring Charton.

179 Inverted Shouring Charton.

170 Inverted Shouring Charton.

170 Inverted Shouring Charton.

171 Inverted Shouring Charton.

172 Inverted Shouring Charton.

173 Inverted Shouring Charton.

174 Inverted Shouring Charton.

175 Inverted Shouring Charton.

176 Inverted

Tuesday's results

bt Pei Pei Law (Maley) 11-0 11-4; Kim Ji-Hyun (S Kor) bt L Jamssen (Noth) 11-7 11-4; M Pedersen (Don) bt A Popel (Ind) 11-1 12-0; Del Yun (Zn) bt Lun Chiu Yin (Znv) 11-3 11-2; C Martin (Den) bt S Watt (Sco) 11-1 11-0; Melusaveti (Indon) bt M Tanaia (Jepan) 11-4 11-3; R Robertson (NZ) bt N Choudhary (Ind) 1-4 11-1; Warg Cran (Ch) bt T Rearrassen (Den) 11-6 11-6; Zhang Ning (Ch) bt A Wedestorm (Fin) 11-10 11-1; 2. Sussenti (Indon) bt K Yonskura (Japan) 8-11 11-2 11-3; Lee Joohyun (S Kor) bt Zi Itoh (Japan) 7-11 11-6 11-2; Je Zhooying (Ch) bt K Kerackura (Pus) 11-3 11-9; Y Mizu (Japan) bt A Sondergeard (Den) 11-9 11-5; M Audina (Indon) bt C Ohsaku (Japan) 11-4 11-1.

Basketball HBA: New York 85 Orlendo 78; Chicago 106 Memi 31; Houston 97 Delles 91; Weshing-ton 93 Milwaukee 77; San Antonio 79 New Jarsey 78; Phoenix 100 Denver 76; Seattle 111 Toronto 83.

round: Poterborough Und 1 Crewe Alexandra 1.
Leegue of Wales: TNS Llansentiffmid 1 Rhyl C.
Postponed: Exhw Vale v Iner Cataly-Tel Caraffi.
Irlesh Caca-Cote Floodfit Cop Sewil-fensh Linfield 1 Glerason 0. Rysman Leegue Premier Division: Carahation 1 Brontey C, Harrow Borough
don Town 1; Romford 3 Tharms 1. Second Division: Banstand 0 Hart Durigorford 4; Barking 1
Mitriow C; Egham 1. Tooling 8. Mitcham 4;
Leighton 0 Titury 0 (obendored 5 rats, RoodJohn Salary): Weadessone 1 Withorn 1 Third Dvision: Caraharley 1 Aveley 3; Confinition
Cacusto O Homes Hompstond 1; Food Let 3
Homotruch 1; Hertford 2 Rackwell Heatin 0; Water
3 East Thurnock 3 Cater maches possponed.
Guardian Insurgence Cup semi-finals second.

Guardian Insurance Cup semi-finals second-leg: Sorehem Wood o Criteri City 3 (492): 7-51, St Aberra o Sution Utd 3 (492): 7-31. Dr Martana Langue Prensier Division: Decreeter Town 4 Bromsgrove Rovers O, Rothrest Town 2

Martine Langue Promier Divinios: Discretori Town 4 Bronsgrove Robers Q, Rothwell Town 2 Cambridge Cty 1, Midlend Division: Evenham 3 Hincisey Uns 1; Shepphed Dynamo 0 Stateman Rangers O Boesthern Division: Colderford 1 Ceredon 2, Fisher Athletic 2 Hassett 1; Water-loville 2 Yorknidge 3 Other matches pastpaned. League Cup semi-finel first leg: Boeston 1 Rad-dich 0. Second leg: Margain 1 Beshley 2 (Agg. 4-2) Unibord League Presider Division: Trafford 1 Cerem C, Wilton Albion 5 Great Harwood Town O Other matches postponed President's Cup

HORIE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Swenses): Instand bt Wales 124-91. Inclured skips first Northern bt Stees 22-11; IDCords bt R Wesle 28-14; J Below bt P Rotatos 20-13; S Alen draw with J Greenstate 18-18: IN Booth lost to M Anstay 16-17; G McCloy bt J Price to the Management of the Steep Inc. HOME DITE

Boxing Roberto Duran, the 48-year-old Pa-namenian, is to challenge William Joppy, the World Bowing Association middleweight champion, in either May eight champion, in either May

or June.

The Uisterman Ray Close, benned from bosing in Britain after feaing a routine brain scan three years ago, will challenge Denmark's International Boxing Organization super-middleweight chempion, Made Larsen, on 20 March in Copenhagen.

eersi-final first leg: Blyth Spartane 2 Funcom
1. Whatborload Kent Leegue First Division:
2. Whatborload Kent Leegue First Division:
Foliosische Invicta 4 Deat 1; Herne Bay 3
Chatmarn C, Hythe 3 Fewershern 4. Unijet Susacc County Leegue First Division: Haisham
4 Eastbourne Bonn 2; Horeham YACA 3 Shoreham 1. Peersponset: Anunder V Littlehampton, Jesson Eastern Leegue Premier Division: Harsetch
4; Parkaston 1 Sudbury Wandowra 2; Hisson 1
Newmerstot 2; Lowestot 2 Haisham 0; Sudbury
Town 4 Watton 1; Tiptree 1 Woodbridge 1. Cenor metches poetponset.
Annot Issusmon Northwen Leegue First Division: Postponset: Dunston Facterdon Brevery y Parvis. North West Counties Leegue First
Division: Warnington 1 America Leegue First
Division: Warnington 1 America Leegue First
Leegue Premier Division: Liversadop 2 Huch-

misches postporfed. Northern Counties East
League Permiter Division: Liveracing 2 this cheel 2: North Fortiby 3 Shaffeld to Classit Town
2 Arriold C. Pictoring 2 bring 2: Theology 1 Mailby 2. President's Cup semi-final: Cesett Abon 1 (Jaszahoughton Watters 3 Untiepert United Counties League Premiter Division:
Boston Town 1 Wadey 2: Ford Sports 3 Kempston 0: Hobbach 1 Stambed 4; Narthere Blackstone 3 Weltingbrough 1. League Cup third
résust; Deventry 2 Wootlon Buc Cross 4 Interfinit Express Middand Allieston: Cheselown
3 West Midands Polici 1; Krepousiey 0 Black
Mere 2; Oudury 1 Blackfed 1; Krepousiey 0 Black
Mere 2; Oudury 1 Blackfed 1; Krepousiey 0 Black
Mere 2; Oudury 1 Blackfed 1 Shaffeld 1 Bringweter
1; Margotsfield 0 Backreel 3 Postponect Elmore V Pridport.

Cycling
PARIS-RICE RACE Second stage (195lon, Sees to Movemi): 1 T States (Sar) Mapsi Str. Zimn Sees; 2 F Moncasan (Pri GAN; 3 G.—M Fagnin (Pri Gordes at serve time. Third stage (194.5tm, Nevert Aug.) Big Mat. 5 C Capelle (Pri Coride at serve time. Third stage (194.5tm, Neverts to Vistry); 1 T Stade (Sar) Str. Attage (194.5tm, Neverts to Vistry); 1 T Seedle (Pri Lasdeng overtal standings: 1 F Vandarzhoutes (Bel) Mapsi Str. Zimn Sees; 2 L Jelsbert (Pri ONCE; 3 & Boscardin (Swit) Festins; 4 L Dutaus (Swit) Festins; 4 L Dutaus (Swit) Festins; 4 L Dutaus (Swit) Festins; 6 L Butagen (195lion chould of Sornesign (Den); 3 R Petito (II); 4 R Sornesign (Den); 3 R Petito (II); 4 R Sornesign (Den); 5 E Registro (II) 5 F Casagrande (II) at same time. Overwell: 1 Bebluck, 3 27 50: 2 Michaelsen, +2sec; 3 Petito 4; 4 Sornesign at.

Football Two Gillingham players have been fined by the Football Association folowing an incident et a Natio League game against Luton in De-cember. Iffy Onoura, who was fined £150, and Simon Retolffe (£100) were both found guilty of making improp-The Tennents Scottish Cup fifth-round replay between Dundee and Pangers will now be played on Wednesday 18

3 Petto +4: 4 Scrensen at.

Today's fixtures Football

RIFTH TEST MATCH (First day, included play on Sunday): Bridgetown, Barbados West Indian v England (205). Other sports BADMINTON: All-England Championship Sharinghem).

SCHMING: World Booing Council fight-wel-tarweight charaptership: Shas Neary (Liverpool), holder) w Andy Holfiger (Liverpool) (Stanley Park, Liverpool).

Cricket

Wigen have re-signed their former ap-prentice, the defender Neil Whitworth, on a free transfer from Kilmannock. REPUBLIC OF TRELAND SOLIAD (Priend-tre Carella Constant Solian) REPUBLIC OF INSTAND SOLID (Priendly v Casch Republic, Olomouc, 28 March); Glove Rivercaste, & Kelly (Sharthield Und), Carr (Ritterham), Kenne (Blackburt), Carriertham, Kenne (Blackburt), Carriertham, Grant (Coverby), Karanegh (Stoke, Kinsalia (Carler), Derby), Karanegh (Stoke, Kinsalia (Carler), Derby), Karanegh (Stoke, Kinsalia (Carler), Bandesterol, Gaste, Olomoily, Ferrally (Everton), G. Kally (Leods, Delap (Derby), Calinn (Sandesterol, Carnelly (Feysnoor)), Kenne (Wolve), Kannedy (Liverpool), Dalf (Blackburt), Kinsalia (Carler), Carnelly, Carler (Blackburt), Kinsalia (Carler), Carler (Vest Bromwich), REPUBLIC OF RELAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (Priendly v Casch Republic, Drovice, 24 March); O'Commor (riudersteid, O'Relly (West Harn), Worrall (Blackburt), Dellon (Potretham), Mickeyere (Shefield Wedresdey), Mahon (Trenmere), Evera (Luton), Amastrong (Brighton), Kirby (Aston Villa), Crowe (Wolves), Sheerin (Crebsea), Boylan (West Harn), Imman (Peserborought).

ATOMORE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Post-poned Exture: Sat 4 April: Cusents Park Rangers v Wolves. WITERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Buscos Aires): Argentina 2 (Editiotata 36, Lopez 85)

Golf SAHARA CUF (Agadit, Mor): Africa 3 Europe 1, Details: W Westers (SA) and M Mairoune (Mor) bt F Russell (Sco) and R Kartsson (Swe) 55 SS; J Hardst (SA) and Y El Masseni (Mor) bt S Struer (Gar) and A Celsta (Gar) 58 Tt C Rocca (F) and T Born (Dan) bt C Whistess (SA) and N Henring (SA) 69 SC T Olimetime (Zm) and R Wessell (SA) bt S Ballesteros (Sp) and M-A Jimenez (Sp) 89 Tt

ice hockey The future of Besingstoke Bison will be decided tonight. Besingstoke and Deane Council, who own the franchise, Deans Counci, who own us narra sea, believe Superisegue ice hockey is no longer viable, with the letsure services committee lively to recommend co-sure because of oripping losses. The council contributes \$56,000 per year as part of Basingatokels \$400,000-plus budget, although it is believed an an-nual increase of around \$300,000 is needed to keep Bison affoat. NHL: Boston 6 Detroit 3; NY leteriders 2 Bul-lato 2 (od); Philadelphia 2 New Jersey 2 (od); Los Angeles 4 Phoenix 3.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: East Mid-lands 40 Barbarians 50. Snooker THAILAND MASTERS (Bangkok) Second round: A McMarus (Sco) bt R O'Sullivar (Eng) 5-1; J Parrott (Eng) bt S Lee (Eng) 5-3; K Doherty (In) bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-4

Rugby Union

SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT IO SPRING GRAND TOURNALENT (Death SPRING GRAND TOURNALENT (Death SPRING (STATE) High round (won 2, lost 2) bi Aktrositu (2-2); Hamanostima (2-2) bi Kritaicarioloid (2-2); Asanostima (2-2) bi Asalin, taice (2-2); Asanostim (3-1) bi Mictourni (3-1); Kotchisuma (2-2) bi Neptourni (3-3); Tamahasupa (2-2) bi Terno (2-2); Miratouri (3-3); Tamahasupa (2-2) bi Terno (2-2); Miratouri (3-3); Tamahasupa (3-3); Yokanojo (1-3) bi Asalingana (3-3); Yokanojo (1-3) bi Asalingana (3-3);

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of months' cricket The number of months' cricket that Ed Giddins, the former Eng-land A fast bowler, will have missed by the time he joins War-wickshire's pre-eason tour to South Africa later this month. Gid-dins' first-class ben for falling a drugs tast expires on 1 April. Tochinoweka (2-2) bi Kotonoweka (2-2); Kotonyu (1-3) bi Teketorki (5-1); Kotonekak (2-2) bi Tochiazume (2-2); Makoyeme (2-2) bi Kalo (2-2); Walkenoheme (4-9) bi Ganyu (1-3); Tochinoneka (1-3) bi Takanonemi (2-2); Museshimaru (3-1) bi Takanoshima (2-2); Akebono (2-2) bi Chiyotakai (3-1); Shidahima (1-3) bi Takanoheme (1-3)

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE Premier Division play-off second lag (Stockholm): Sweden 2 England 4 lagg: 8-5, England relegated to First Division). Tennis

Steffi Graf is to play in the Direct Line

Table tennis

Insurance women's grass court tour-nament at Eastbourne in June. The has just returned after eight months cut with lonee trouble.

COPENHAGEN BIENTS TOURNAMENT Singles, first round: K Carlier Durd bt J Diez (Sp) 6-1 6-1: O Pazzi (Is bt A Boelsch (F) 6-4 6-3; T Keitel (Fin) bt R Schutter (Gar) 7-5-2-6 6-3; Z Sieven (NZ) bt J Kintpoechid (Sor) 6-4 6-0.

NEWSWEEK (MEN'S CHAMPIONS CUP (Indien Wells, Call) Singles, first round: J-M Gernoll (US) bt M Philippouleis (Aug) 7-6-7-7-6; T Enzylet (Swo) bt R Remaberg (US) 6-3 8-1; C Moya (Sp) bt G Stafford (SA) 8-2-6-3; V Species (US) bt J A Video (Sp) 6-4-6-1; S report (Aus) bt A Gauchenzi (b) 6-4-4-6-6-3; S out with knee trouble.

CRICKETLINE WEST INDIES **V ENGLAND VERY LATEST NEWS & SCORES** 0930-161-567

Doeedel (C2 Rep) bt A Beresstegul (Sp) 6-4 1-0 ret; T Hene (Ger) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3 3-5 6-1; H Deekman (Ger) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 6-4 6-4 Second counter P Sampras (US) bt T Merfin (US) 6-1 7-5; P Refer (Aus) bt W Fernina (SA) 7-5-5 7-6-4; Ulfmach (C2 Rep) bt Y Katishikov 6-3 6-3; T Muster (Auf) bt C Poine (Fr) 4-6 6-3 6-4. N Keter (Ger) bt M Washington (US) 6-3 6-4. Wearington (US) 6-3 6-4. White Wells) Strugtes, third round: J Kruger (SA) Int A Coeler (SA) 2-6 6-6 6-4; C Marrinez (Sp) Int A Coeler (SA) 2-6 6-6 4; C Marrinez (Sp) Int A Coeler (SA) 2-6 6-2; Williams (US) Int A Dragorier (Rem) 6-2 6-2; Williams (US) Int O Van Poost (Bel) 6-4 6-1; Guarter-final: S Graf (Ger) Int N Zvereva (Bola) 6-3 6-0.

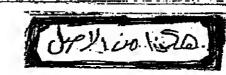


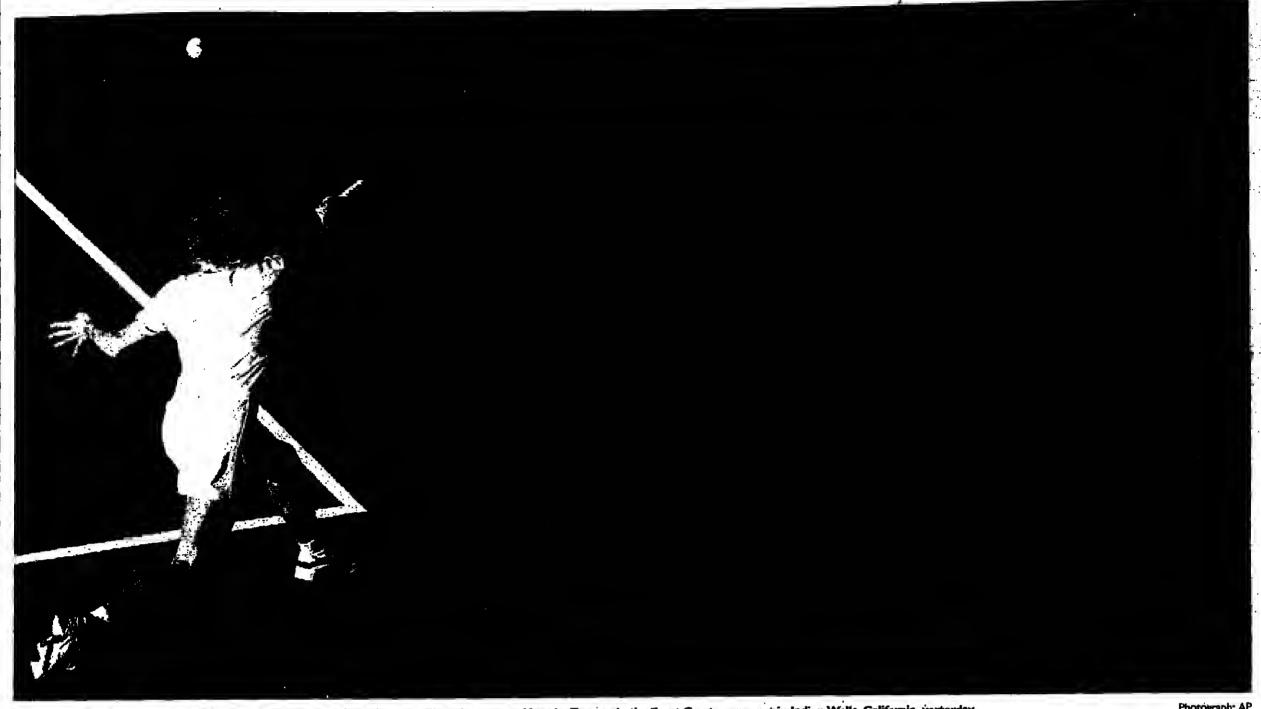
Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

For the latest news. views and regular updates call Heory Blofeld's erieket line on:

0930 563 597

Calls cost 50p per manue: A ad times. The state of the s





Club owners threaten court action

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

spo of do\ tic≥ Mik

oni rinț Ov: side

ticı bav

caru caru cap

bril

Bric

role

inni

the

the

that

that

pe i

Ath

sper thai

bad

ಎರಟ tim:

TIN

new Cha

Wel

TOU

ın h

ter

the

Si

Sł

NO MORE posturing, no more idle threats. The final battle lines were drawn across England's bloody rugby landscape yesterday as the big-time professional clubs, the Roundheads of the domestic game's civil war, challenged the Cavalier establishment of Twickenham in the only language late-20th century sport appears to understand. Namely: "Make some concessions, or we'll see you in court".

The assault, both bold and

articulate, was led by the two most successful club owners in the country, Sir John Hall, of Newcastle and Nigel Wray, of Saracens. Together with Donald Kerr, the chairman of the English Rugby Partnership, they launched their loog-awaited "charter", a vision of the future that contradicts the Club England philosophy of Fran Cotton, the vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union, at almost every turn. If Cotton sticks to his guns - and there is no doubting his intention in that respect - the clubs will seek his bead oo a High Court platter.

thoughtful of the multimillionaire owner-investors involved in Premiership rugby, said the fight was oo for the hearts and minds of the English sporting public. "If the RFU want club rugby in this country to cootinue, they're going a funny way about it," said the richest son of Old Millhillians

"I might turn it round the other way by saying if the RFU want to exterminate the club game, they're absolutely spoton. The clubs are facing a situation in which their regulators,

Wray, perhaps the most the Union, are also their direct the club element of his plan team - and we'll take our right sense. They are asking us to can see us in court." build businesses oo crumbling

> "If the RFU would only drop their fixation with divisional rugby, which has been shown to be a non-starter more times than any of us can remember, and allow the clubs to cootract their players with international commitments fully protected, we might get somewhere. As it stands, though, the Cotton stance, if I can call it that, puts

the clubs out of business. "Fran simply has to remove

competitors. It is crazy, a non- from the table. If be doesn't, I.

While Wray, ooe of the Premiership doves, was more militant than usual, his hawkish partner from Newcastle was characteristically up-froot. "It's time we all came out and told people where we are going oo this one," Hall said. "We've all postured ourselves to a standstill. Now it's down to business.

"We've taken Newcastle from an average crowd of 800 to something close to 5,000 that's what we've done, 'oot Fran Cotton or the England Test

to exist and prosper to whatever lengths we feel necessary.

We are going to get our rights through European legislation in two years anyway - we know that through the best legal advice - but we'd like to be able to sort it oow through bonest, straightforward oegoriation with the ruling body. If they don't want to do it that way, fine. We'll be here in two years' time 10 do it the hard way."

The charter establishes a oumber of principles that will be anathema to the current RFU hierarchy: the clubs want

become involved as news that

Gascoigne is available on loan

spreads throughout the game.

Meanwhile, Sasa Curcic's £1m move to Selhurst Park,

which appeared to have stalled

a few days ago when an appli-

cation for a work permit was

to operate as an "independent organisation under the auspices of the Union and intend to oegotiate their own broadcasting and sponsorship deals; they want to retain all leading players on club cootracts: they want to set up a new European club competition managed by

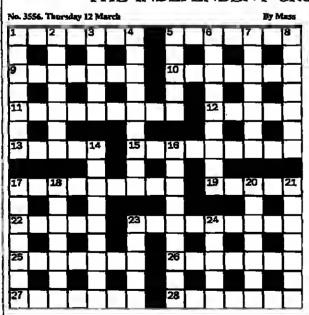
the participants and expand the Premiership to accommodate 14 teams; and they want to shift the Five Nations' Championship to a new end-of-sea-

"What we have at the moment is a bad marriage," said Kerr, a prominent figure at Harlequins and an old hand in the club-Union conflagration. "The Union wants total control while we want our freedom. We have enough capable businessmen on board now to make it happen."

Cottoo and company beg to differ, of course. The men in wigs are already counting their prospective earnings.

Evans' Test retirement

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Hunting dog circling

Normal well-worked clay-pit (7) Block photograph? (5,2) 10 Drink, eating spare trifle

11 Into Ecstasy? Crack, reportedly - and grass, I 12 A character of some gal-

lantry (5) 13 Remove, discharge without hint of work (5)

15 Heighten derelict garage for housing tank (9) 17 First in race? That's something of a horse, in enclosed stable (9)

19 Appear to have good round, approaching tee...

22 ... in a match that's all 23 It's not associated with current trends (9) 25 Pope's works I rate high

among Saints (7) 26 A train's stranded (7) Content of letters is free of taunts (7) 28 Knots in hard pines (7)

Releases (as regards bonds) (7) A note after instrument's

missed a tempo? (3,4) By word of mouth betrays plants (5) Scorn a pure diet, inclined to wallow (9) Element in The Restora- 24

C Published by Newspaper Publishing P.C. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL, and printed at Mirror Colour Point, St.

Trade in form of protection (9) Strike artist with a fantas

A D M O D TIPPERARY SOLIO I R N R U I S I ORIGAMI KERATIN

tic idea (7) Transport fruit in bags 14 Rendered drunk (9) E.g. act badly, getting reckless, and intrude (9) Jack in Police Depart

ment's given commenda-

tion (7) 18 Bird, the foraging kind, around South (7) A European girl taking in Tolstoy's original tale (7) Gets bored ted with commercial outbursts (7)

Fish one hauled in from bottom (5) Best yarn editor rejected

able from Historic Newspapers, 01988 Rattin

Gascoigne move 'only a loan'

Football

By Alan Nixon

MEL STEIN, Paul Gascoigne's solicitor, revealed yesterday that the Rangers player's proposed move to Crystal Palace was a loan arrangement until the end of the season. "If Palace go down, Paul

would not be obliged to stay," Stein said. "Even if they stayed up he could leave. There would be an agreed option at a certain price, but it's no more than that at the moment."

The England midfielder had been touted as a £3m target for Palace and their prospective owner, Mark Goldberg, However. Stein revealed last night that no transfer fee would change hands until the summer and the player would only be manager, Bryan Robson, yes-

with Palace for the rest of the terday and Evertoo could even

"I've spoken to Mark Goldberg on the phone a couple of times, but we bave not talked terms. There's no point as Paul might not fancy the club or the set-up," Stein added.

Stein's revelation raises new questions about wby Rangers are letting their man go without any guaranteed payment - and whether Palace have the money to buy him.

Gascoigne is due in London next week to have a look at Palace, but he may need some. convincing. Stein said: "Paul would like a bit more certainty. He asked me who is running the club and that's oot particularly clear. I would anticipate there will be some other clubs coming in." Stein met Middlesbrough's

rejected, may be back on. The Astoo Villa manager John Gregory, has revealed that be expects Palace to make a new attempt to secure a per-

mit for the midfielder. "I think that Palace are making one more try," Gregory said. Curcic has only started three games for Villa this season as well as losing his place in the Yugoslav national team. Both factors contributed to Palace failing in their initial at-

tempt to secure a work permit. Glenn Moore, page 31

Taylor frets over Fifa edict

easily as great goalscorers.

and less worries.

"From the point of view

"But it is a bit of a worrying

process that's making life even

harder for defenders these days

that there'll be less injuries it'll

make life a lot easier for for-

THE chairman of the Profes- such I wouldn't want to see the - with stricter refereeing, dif-Gordon Taylor, has claimed Fifa's decision to outlaw the tackle from behind had both good and bad implications.

Football's world governing body bas insisted tackles from of the game is that you can think behind must be automatically punished by sending off players in the World Cup finals.

"As a forward I'd be delighted because it will encourage more attacking and skilful play," Taylor said. "There will wards. Certainly less knocks be less injuries which will be fortunate. But it seems to be a part of the process making life a lot harder for defenders and as

sional Footballers' Association, art of tackling go out of the ferent interpretations and it's becoming difficult if not impossible game. From that point of view my judgement is tempered. for defenders to go through a You've got to remember season without missing games."

this game is about attacking and Taylor added that the new defending. One of the qualities rule would take some time to adjust to for even the most exof greater tacklers and defendperienced professional. ers who spring to mind just as

"There is a natural inclination for defenders no matter what position the ball is in that they'll attempt to win it," he said. "And it's going to take a lot more judgement and patience and there's going to be a period of adjustment which is going to be

extremely hard for them."

soo positioo in April and May. **MORSE**

> Network Computing.

Our survey said...

An exit poll of IT executives attending our recent Network Computing seminars revealed some interesting facts.

For instance, 52% expect to implement Network Computing strategies within the next 12 months.

For full survey results and a copy of our executive briefing, 'Network Computing: the facts revealed, call 0800 22 88 88.



Morse Computers

